





15215/B/1.











*Sup*

*R Ferri Sulph Ziij  
acid nit fort Ziij*

*Aqua — Ziij*

*R ~~Iodid Potas 3p~~  
Aqua Zi  
Rugis Solution Zi*

*R Ferri Sulph gr xv  
acid nit fort xv Sumul contrit  
Aqua Zi  
Syrupi Papav Ziij  
Spir Etha nitri Zi  
aq. Camph ad Ziiv*

*3*







A

## M A N U A L

*Thomas Windsor*  
OF

## P H A R M A C Y.



BY

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ST. PETERSBURGH, OF THE IMPERIAL SOCIETY OF  
NATURALISTS OF MOSCOW, ETC. ETC.

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MDCCCXXXIII.





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TO THE  
MASTER,  
WARDENS, ASSISTANTS,  
AND  
MEMBERS,  
OF THE  
*Society of Apothecaries of London,*

THE FOLLOWING PAGES

ARE INSCRIBED,

BY THEIR FAITHFUL SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

*London, May 1, 1833.*





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## PART I.

COMPRISES THE ARTICLES OF THE MATERIA MEDICA, THE LATIN NAMES  
OF WHICH ARE ARRANGED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

## PART II.

COMPRISES THE PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS AND COMPOUNDS AS  
DIRECTED BY THE LONDON PHARMACOPŒIA.





## INTRODUCTION.

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IN a MANUAL OF CHEMISTRY, originally published in the year 1819, I have endeavoured to present the reader with a compendium of the principal facts of that science, arranged in the order in which they are discussed and illustrated in the Lectures delivered in the Laboratory of the Royal Institution. The object of the present work is to furnish the student with a corresponding outline of the Course of Pharmacy annually given at Apothecaries' Hall.

Under the term Pharmacy I include all that relates to the Medical and Chemical History of the different Articles of the *Materia Medica*; to the mode of prescribing them; to their effects; to their composition: these, therefore, are the subjects to which I have almost exclusively confined myself in the following pages; and it is hoped that they will be found so treated as to facilitate the progress of the medical student in this important branch of his profession.

I have adopted the list of the *Materia Medica*, and of the Preparations and Compounds, sanctioned by the Royal College of Physicians of London, and published in their *Pharmacopœia*, as the basis of this work, and have endeavoured to divest my remarks upon them of all details, except such as I conceive likely to prove practically useful.



In the compounding of Medicines TROY WEIGHT is directed to be employed by the London College: the *pound* (containing 5760 grains) is subdivided into twelve *ounces*; the *ounce* into eight *drachms*; the *drachm* into three *scruples*; the *scruple* into twenty *grains*.

| lb.    |   | ℥       |   | ʒ        |   | ʒ         |   | gr.     |
|--------|---|---------|---|----------|---|-----------|---|---------|
| Pound. |   | Ounces. |   | Drachms. |   | Scruples. |   | Grains. |
| 1      | = | 12      | = | 96       | = | 288       | = | 5760    |
|        |   | 1       | = | 8        | = | 24        | = | 480     |
|        |   |         |   | 1        | = | 3         | = | 60      |
|        |   |         |   |          |   | 1         | = | 20      |

But nearly all drugs, like other ordinary commodities, are purchased and sold by AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT, of which the *pound* (containing 7000 grains) is subdivided into sixteen *ounces*, and the *ounce* into sixteen *drachms*.

| lb.    |   | oz.     |   | dr.      |   | gr.     |
|--------|---|---------|---|----------|---|---------|
| Pound. |   | Ounces. |   | Drachms. |   | Grains. |
| 1      | = | 16      | = | 256      | = | 7000    |
|        |   | 1       | = | 16       | = | 437.50  |
|        |   |         |   | 1        | = | 27.34   |

In the measurement of Liquids the standard WINE GALLON (containing ten avoirdupois pounds of distilled water at the temperature of 62°) is subdivided, for medicinal purposes, into eight *pints*; the *pint* into sixteen *fluidounces*; the *fluid-ounce* into eight *fluidrachms*; and the *fluidrachm* into sixty *minims*.

| Gallon. |   | ℥      |   | ℥            |   | ℥            |   | ℥       |
|---------|---|--------|---|--------------|---|--------------|---|---------|
|         |   | Pints. |   | Fluidounces. |   | Fluidrachms. |   | Minims. |
| 1       | = | 8      | = | 128          | = | 1024         | = | 61440   |
|         |   | 1      | = | 16           | = | 128          | = | 7680    |
|         |   |        |   | 1            | = | 8            | = | 480     |
|         |   |        |   |              |   | 1            | = | 60      |

Temperatures are, in all instances, measured by FAHRENHEIT'S thermometric scale, in which the *boiling point* of water is 212°; the *freezing point*, 32°; by the term *gentle heat*, a temperature between 90° and 100° is implied; and the *specific gravities* of bodies are assumed as taken at 55°.



A

# MANUAL OF PHARMACY.

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## PART I.

### MATERIA MEDICA.

**ABIETIS RESINA**—*The Resin of the Pinus Abies*<sup>1</sup>, or *Spruce Fir*—the *Thus* of the old Pharmacopœia. This noble tree, which grows to a height exceeding 150 feet, flourishes in most parts of Europe and in the northern parts of Asia. It grows erect and pyramidal, and has a scaly bark: its leaves are of a dingy green, and thickly set upon the branches: the male catkins are ovate, purplish, and scattered in the axils of the leaves: the female are purple and generally terminal; the cones, which are pendant, are brownish-red when ripe, long and cylindrical; the scales are pointed, oval, and arranged in eight spiral rows.

The resin is usually in softish masses, and imported from Germany, in casks of one to two cwt. each. Its only use is as an ingredient in some plasters. It has an aromatic and terebinthine odour; a pale yellowish-brown colour, often intermixed with white streaks; and is occasionally met with in the form of rounded masses or tears, which have spontaneously exuded from and dried upon the trees.

Genuine *Burgundy pitch* is also the produce of the *pinus abies*, obtained by incision through the bark. The different portions are collected, fused in boiling water, and cleansed by pressing through canvass cloths. When genuine, it has a very peculiar odour; and although brittle in cold weather, it assumes a tenacious viscosity when gently heated, or kneaded in the warm hand. It therefore forms an excellent adhesive and gently stimulant plaster, exciting some degree of irritation, and often a slight serous exudation from the parts to which it is applied. It will remain adherent to the cuticle for a long time; and is usefully applied to the thorax in catarrhal affections, and to the loins in rheumatism and lumbago. These plasters, independent of the cuticular irritation which

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 21. Ord. 8. Monœcia Monadelphia. Nat. Ord. Coniferæ.



they excite, are useful as merely keeping the part warm and supported. It is customary with apothecaries to keep Burgundy pitch in a small ladle, or old saucepan, and to remelt the same portion repeatedly, by which it loses its characteristic adhesiveness and irritating quality, and is little more active than common rosin. It should always be applied fresh, and spread upon the leather with the aid of as little heat as possible.

Upon some skins, a Burgundy pitch plaster, or any similar application, creates incessant itching, and excites a pimply eruption, attended by almost unbearable irritation, so that it is frequently necessary to remove it within a few hours after its application: in these instances, however, it often does great service, especially in chronic rheumatism, where it may thus prove almost as effectual as a blister.

Spurious Burgundy pitch, manufactured here, is detected chiefly by deficiency in the strong and peculiar odour and viscosity of the genuine resin.

**ABSINTHIUM** — *Artemisia Absinthium*<sup>1</sup>, or common *Wormwood*. A perennial herb, growing wild in many parts of Britain: generally cultivated for medical use. Its root is branched and woody; the stems rise to two or three feet, are branching, angled, and furrowed, with the summits paniced. The lower leaves are bipinnate; the upper digitated, with oblong, obtuse, very entire segments. The racemes are erect, and the flowers pedicellated, nodding, hemispherical, and of a brownish-yellow colour. The florets of the disc are numerous, but those of the ray few, and the receptacle is covered with white silky hairs, shorter than the calyx.

Wormwood has very long had a place in the *Materia Medica*, but it is difficult to say why it is now retained; for, although a powerful bitter, it has been generally discarded on account of its nauseous flavour<sup>2</sup>. Its bitterness is derived from what is usually called extractive matter, and is retained by the decoction after long boiling—a pound of the herb yielding about five ounces of extract, consisting, according to Braconnot, of

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Bitter extractive matter .....             | 50·1 |
| Bitter resin .....                         | 4·0  |
| Tasteless vegetable albumen.....           | 22·3 |
| Starch .....                               | 2·8  |
| Absynthiate? of potassa .....              | 15·3 |
| Nitrate of potassa .....                   | 5·5  |
| Traces of muriate and sulphate of potassa. |      |

---

100

<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 19. *Ord.* 2. Syngenesia Polygamia Superflua. *Nat. Ord.* Comp ositæ Discoideæ, *Linn.* Corymbiferae, *Jussieu*.

<sup>2</sup> As implied by its name from a privative and *ψντος* pleasure,

From 100 parts of the dry herb, Hayne obtained

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Volatile oil? .....                 | —    |
| Bitter extract .....                | 4•   |
| Mucilage .....                      | 15•1 |
| Bitter resin soluble in ether ..... | 8•6  |
| Ditto insoluble in ether .....      | 3•4  |

It also contains acetic acid, acetate of potassa, and sulphate of lime.

The aroma of wormwood depends upon essential oil, which may be obtained by distillation, 1 cwt. of the fresh herb yielding, upon an average, 4 ounces of oil.

Wormwood is sometimes spoken of as an antispasmodic, and the older writers extol it as a vermifuge<sup>1</sup>; but it deserves little attention at the present day in either of these characters. The French are fond of it as a stomachic, and spoil some of their excellent liqueurs with its flavour; and what our publicans sell under the name of purl, is said to be ale seasoned with the tops of wormwood. Applied externally, infusion of wormwood has no advantage over warm water; it is not more discutient, and scarcely more antiseptic.

If used internally, wormwood should be fresh; and for this purpose ʒij. of the recent plant may be infused in a pint of boiling water for four hours.

R Hujusce infusi fʒiss.

Spirit. Cinnamomi fʒss.

M. ft. haustus 4tis vel 6tis horis sumendus.

The ashes of wormwood afford by lixiviation a quantity of impure carbonate of potassa, which used to be called *salt of wormwood*.

Officinal preparation. *Extractum Abysynthii*.

ACACIÆ GUMMI—*Gum Acacia*, or, as it is vulgarly called, *Gum Arabic*, is a spontaneous exudation from the bark of the *acacia vera*<sup>2</sup>, a native of Africa. It is a low tree with a crooked stem, covered with a grey and purplish bark: the leaves are alternate, bipinnate, composed of several pairs of opposite pinnæ, with a small gland on the common petiole, between the base of each pair, and having numerous pairs of narrow, elliptical smooth leaflets. On each side of the base of the leaves are two long diverging white spines. The flowers are hermaphrodite and male, crowded into globular heads, rather than spikes, which are supported on slender peduncles, and rise four or five together from the axillæ of the leaves: the

<sup>1</sup> Hence the name *wormwood*, probably a corruption of *wormwort*.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 23. Ord. 1. Polygamia Monœcia. Nat. Ord. Lomentaceæ, Linn. Leguminosæ, Juss.



calyx is small, bell-shaped and five-toothed; the corolla is divided into five narrow, yellow segments; the filaments are numerous, capillary, bearing roundish yellow anthers; the germen is conical, with a slender style and simple stigma; and the pods, which are three or four inches long and half an inch broad, contain several flattish, brown seeds. The gum is imported, packed in casks, from Barbary and Morocco, in drops or tears, and in small fragments of a pale straw-colour, and more or less transparent or translucent. It is frequently mixed with what is known in the trade under the name of gum Senegal, also an African product, and probably indiscriminately collected from several trees.

Gum Arabic exhibits the chemical characters of pure gum. Its specific gravity is 1.35. It is tasteless, readily soluble in water, but insoluble in pure alcohol and ether. Its aqueous solution, if concentrated, is very little prone to change; if much diluted, it becomes acetous when kept. This solution is decomposed by subacetate of lead, and a precipitate is formed composed of gum and oxide of lead. The alkalies and diluted acids dissolve gum without change, but the concentrated acids decompose and alter it. Nitric acid converts a portion of it into mucic or saccholactic acid. It consists of carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen.

The medical uses of gum Arabic are soon told. It is nutritious to a considerable extent, and is placed among the substances termed *demulcents*. Its chief use is to suspend different insoluble substances in water; hence it is often mixed with oils, resins, gum resins, and the like. The *mucilago acaciæ* of the Pharmacopœia is made by dissolving the powdered gum in twice its weight of boiling water; a solution too thick for most purposes.

To allay the irritation excited by a cough, mixtures of mucilage and oil, or *emulsions*, are often of some service; and they may be rendered palatable, and even pleasant, by the addition of sugar and some very slight aromatic. Thus—

R Mucil. Acaciæ ℥j.  
 Olei Amygd.  
 Syrup. Tolutani āā f℥ss.  
 Aquæ Cinnam. f℥ij.  
 — distillat. f℥iv.

M. fiat Mistur. ejus sumatur parum subinde.

Or the diluted mucilage may be more simply prescribed as the vehicle of an expectorant; thus—

R Mucilagnis acaciæ ℥ij.  
 Syrupi Mori, ℥j.  
 Aquæ Rosæ, ℥iij.  
 Tinct. Scillæ, ℥j. M.

Cochlearia duo vel tria ampla sumantur subinde.

Much has been said of the use of viscid mucilages in cases of poisoning by acrid substances as a means of sheathing and protecting the alimentary canal; upon many occasions they appear to be useful as auxiliaries, although not to be depended on.

**ACETOSÆ FOLIA**—*The Leaves of the Rumex acetosa*<sup>1</sup>, or common Sorrel. This is a common perennial, growing in pastures and flowering in June: it has a round, striated leafy stem, one to two feet high: the leaves are oblong, ovate and arrow-shaped; the radical ones petiolate and obtuse; and those of the stem sessile, amplexicaule, pointed, and a little rolled back. The flowers are dioecious, in branched panicles, and arranged in half whorls: the calyx and corolla small; the stamens are very short, bearing large yellow anthers, and the styles short, with large crimson-bearded stigmas. The valves are ovate, entire, and graniferous.

Sorrel is an unnecessary incumbrance to the *Materia Medica*; but it forms a good article of cookery, and an excellent sauce for stewed lamb or veal. Its acidity depends upon the presence of superoxalate of potassa. It is called an *antiscorbutic*, and is said to be slightly diuretic.

**ACETOSELLA**—*The common Wood-sorrel. Oxalis acetosella*<sup>2</sup>. Wood-sorrel is an indigenous perennial, found in shady places and flowering in April and May. It has a horizontal, fleshy, and toothed root of a reddish colour; the leaves are radical, ternate like trefoil, and petiolate; with the leaflets obcordate, very entire, hairy, of a yellowish-green colour, and purplish underneath. The flower-stalk is furnished with two scaly bractes placed about an inch and a half beneath the flower, which is subnutant, delicate, and of a flesh-colour streaked with red. The calycine leaflets are oblong, oval, acute, ciliated, and purple at the tip. The corolla is bell-shaped, with the claws of the petals upright and the borders obovate, rounded, and spreading: the filaments are somewhat connate at the base, and furnished with oblong, incumbent anthers, and the styles smooth, rising from an ovate germen. The capsule is membranous, and contains two seeds in every cell; each seed is invested with a fleshy white axil, at first smooth and closed on every side, but at length, opening at the apex elastically, it rolls back, and throws off the seed with considerable force.

Wood-sorrel, like the former, is an inodorous, acidulous plant, deriving its sourness from the presence of quadroxalate

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 6. Ord. 2. Hexandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Holoraceæ, Linn. Polygonææ, Juss.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 10. Ord. 5. Decandria Pentagynia. Nat. Ord. Gruinales, Linn. Geraneæ, Juss.



of potassa. This salt, prepared either from the juice of the plant, or by dropping a solution of potassa into a strong aqueous solution of oxalic acid, is often sold under the name of *essential salt of lemons*, and used for removing stains and iron-moulds from linen; sometimes cream of tartar is fraudulently substituted for it.

Wood-sorrel is not of much use either in physic or cookery; the object of retaining it, therefore, in the *Materia Medica* of the *Pharmacopœia*, is by no means obvious. Boiled with milk it forms a kind of whey, by some deemed antiscorbutic.

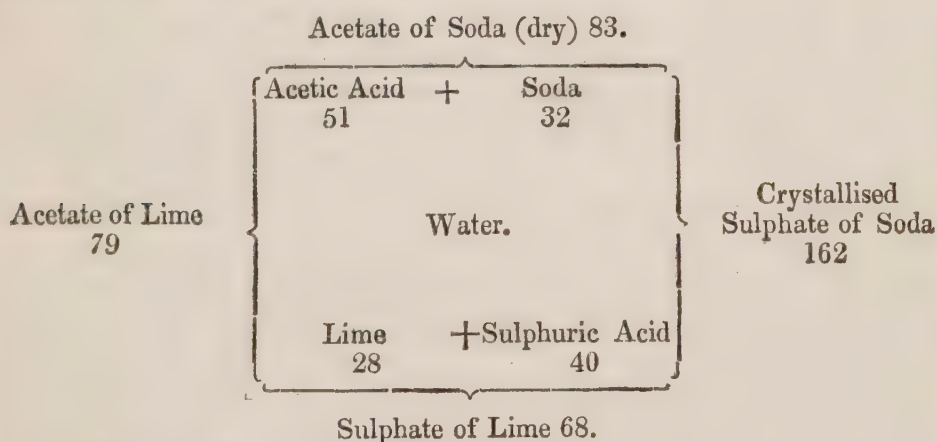
**ACETUM—Vinegar.** There are many processes, remarkably different from each other, by which vinegar may be obtained. In wine countries it is procured by the exposure of wine to the action of air and a due temperature; it is sometimes made from solutions of sugar and saccharine fruits; and in this country it is abundantly prepared from infusion of malt. In all these instances the liquids are suffered to ferment with more or less access of air, part of the oxygen of which is converted into carbonic acid, and the liquors, if originally vinous, become gradually sour, owing to the formation of vinegar, or *acetic acid*.

It is manifest that, in all these cases, the true acetic acid must not only be diluted with water, but contaminated by all the soluble matters contained in the fruit or materials employed: among these we always find colouring matter, gum, starch and gluten, sugar, and a portion of alcohol; and frequently malic and tartaric acids, with minute portions of alkaline and earthy salts. Vinegars are also sometimes intentionally adulterated by sulphuric, muriatic, or even nitric acids. The former may be detected by the addition of acetate of baryta, which occasions a precipitate of sulphate of baryta, to be distinguished from the malate and tartrate of baryta (which also *may* be thrown down) by its insolubility in nitric acid. The presence of muriatic acid is shown by the precipitate formed by nitrate of silver, being insoluble in nitric acid, but perfectly soluble in liquid ammonia. To ascertain the presence of nitric acid, let the vinegar, mixed with a little common salt, be saturated with potassa, and evaporated to dryness: upon the dry residue pour equal parts of water and sulphuric acid through which some gold leaf has been diffused, and boil the mixture; if nitric acid be present, the gold leaf will be dissolved—but if absent, it will not be acted on<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> In distilled vinegar we often find traces of copper, lead, and tin: the former is easily recognised by supersaturating with caustic ammonia, which produces a blue colour; or by the addition of prussiate of potassa, which forms a brown

Another mode of obtaining vinegar, now very extensively practised, consists in subjecting wood to destructive distillation in an apparatus properly constructed for the purpose<sup>1</sup>. Under these circumstances it affords a large quantity of gaseous and liquid products, the latter consisting chiefly of tar, water, and acetic acid. From this an impure acetate (pyrolignate) of lime is manufactured, which, after having been to a certain extent purified, is mixed with sulphate of soda; a double decomposition is thus effected, and sulphate of lime and acetate of soda are formed; the latter salt, being very soluble, is easily separated from the very difficultly soluble sulphate of lime, purified by solution and crystallisation, and decomposed in a proper distillatory apparatus, by sulphuric acid; a very pure and concentrated acetic acid passes over, and sulphate of soda remains, which is used up in the former part of the process. The following tables show the theory of these decompositions, and the affixed equivalent numbers are the weights of the respective substances required.



*Crystallised* acetate of soda is a compound of

|   |                           |     |
|---|---------------------------|-----|
| 1 | proportional of Soda..... | 32  |
| 1 | ————— Acetic Acid.....    | 51  |
| 6 | ————— Water 9 × 6.....    | 54  |
|   |                           | 137 |

cloud. If vinegar hold oxide of lead in solution, it is rendered turbid by the addition of a few drops of solution of sulphate of soda, which occasions a white precipitate. If lead and copper are absent, and there should be a dark cloud occasioned by sulphuretted hydrogen, we may infer the presence of tin. These metals are generally derived from the worm or condenser of the still, which in large acetic acid manufactories should be of silver; it may be made very thin, and is not in the least acted upon by the acid.

See Parkes' Chemical Essays.



|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Liquid Acetic Acid <sup>1</sup> 60.             |                           |
| Acetic Acid (dry) 51                            | + Water 9                 |
| Acetate of Soda (dry) 83<br>= 137 crystallised. |                           |
| Soda 32   | + Sulphuric Acid (dry) 40 |
| Sulphate of Soda (dry) 72.                      |                           |
|   | Liquid Sulphuric Acid 49  |

It is thus, then, by saturating any of the dilute acetic acids by a metallic oxide, and decomposing the dry acetate so obtained by sulphuric acid, that we procure pure and concentrated acetic acid. In this state it used to be called *radical vinegar*. It is a transparent, colourless, volatile, and acrid liquid, which crystallises at about 40°. and has a specific gravity of 1.060. Its vapour is inflammable. When duly diluted with water, it closely resembles distilled vinegar. The real strength of this acetic acid cannot be judged of, like that of many other acids, by a reference to its specific gravity; for samples of the same density are continually found to vary extremely in the proportion of real acid which they contain, owing partly to the presence of what has been termed *pyroacetic* or *pyroxylic spirit*<sup>2</sup>, a substance into which the acetic acid appears convertible, and which is formed at its original distillation from the wood, as well as in some of the after-processes of purification. Besides which, there is not only not that marked difference between the specific gravity of acetic acid of different strengths that enables us to resort to that criterion, without instruments of extreme delicacy, but a

<sup>1</sup> This is the composition of what is sometimes known under the name of *glacial acetic acid*, in consequence of the facility with which it crystallises at temperatures below 40°.

<sup>2</sup> Pyroacetic spirit has a penetrating ethereal odour, an acrid taste, and a specific gravity, after having been distilled off muriate of lime, of 0.828. It burns with a blue flame, leaving no residue, but producing a peculiar smell. It is insoluble in water, but soluble in alcohol. When distilled with its volume of sulphuric acid, it is not altered; hence evidently distinct from alcohol, for which, however, it may be used as a substitute in lamps. According to Messrs. Macaire and Marcet, (Biblioth. Univers., October, 1823,) it consists of

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Carbon.....    | 44.53 |
| Oxygen.....    | 46.31 |
| Hydrogen ..... | 9.16  |

---

100

It is highly stimulating and diaphoretic as a medicine.

peculiar irregularity of density<sup>1</sup>; so that the strength or value of acetic acid can only be judged of by its saturating power<sup>2</sup>. Real (dry) acetic acid saturates almost exactly its own weight of carbonate of lime (powdered Carrara marble); or 50 parts of acetic acid are saturated by 117 of crystallised carbonate of soda. Upon either of these data the real value or strength of any sample of acetic acid is easily determined, by the rule of proportions. The ultimate composition of acetic acid has been determined by Dr. Prout, and from his analysis and that of the acetates, we deduce 51 as its equivalent number, and it may be regarded as composed of

|   |                         |                       |                      |                   |             |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 4 | proportionals of Carbon | .....                 | $6 \times 4 = 24$    | .....             | 46.06       |
| 3 | —————                   | Oxygen                | .....                | $8 \times 3 = 24$ | ..... 47.06 |
| 3 | —————                   | Hydrogen <sup>1</sup> | ... $1 \times 3 = 3$ | .....             | 5.88        |
|   |                         |                       | 51                   |                   | 100.00      |

According to this analysis there is no excess of oxygen, but the oxygen and hydrogen are in the exact proportions to form water.

As an article of the Materia Medica, acetic acid is chiefly valuable as a rubefacient stimulant; and as it is soluble in alcohol, and dissolves camphor, liniments of camphorated spirit of wine may be sharpened to any desired extent by the addition of concentrated acetic acid.

R Spiritus Camphorati f̄ijj.

Acidi Acetici fort. f̄jj.

Misce fiant embrocatio parti affectæ applicanda.

To this any of the volatile oils may be added, for acetic acid also dissolves most of them, as we see in *aromatic vinegar*<sup>3</sup>, which is the acid thus perfumed, and furnishes an agreeable

<sup>1</sup> This is shown in the following table drawn up by Dr. Thomson (First Prin. ii. 135.)

| Acid.  |   | Water. |       | Specific Gravity at 60. |
|--------|---|--------|-------|-------------------------|
| 1 atom | + | 1 atom | ..... | 1.06296                 |
| 1 ———  | + | 2 ———  | ..... | 1.07060                 |
| 1 ———  | + | 3 ———  | ..... | 1.07080                 |
| 1 ———  | + | 4 ———  | ..... | 1.07132                 |
| 1 ———  | + | 5 ———  | ..... | 1.06820                 |
| 1 ———  | + | 6 ———  | ..... | 1.06708                 |
| 1 ———  | + | 7 ———  | ..... | 1.06349                 |
| 1 ———  | + | 8 ———  | ..... | 1.05974                 |
| 1 ———  | + | 9 ———  | ..... | 1.05794                 |
| 1 ———  | + | 10 ——— | ..... | 1.05439                 |

<sup>2</sup> Taylor on the Acetometer, Quarterly Journal, vi. 255.

<sup>3</sup> According to Dr. Paris, Henry's Aromatic Vinegar is an acetic solution of camphor and of the oils of cloves, lavender, and rosemary. A preparation of this kind, he observes, may be extemporaneously made by putting ʒj. of acetate of potass into a phial, with a few drops of some fragrant oil, and ℥xx. of sulphuric acid. (Pharmacologia, II. 15.)—Marseilles, or Thieves' Vinegar, consists of camphor, volatile oils, and vinegar, and resembles the *Acetum Aromaticum* of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia.



nasal stimulant. A piece of blotting paper, or cambric, moistened with pure acetic acid, and applied to the cuticle, soon excites a burning heat, with much redness; and if suffered to remain upon the spot for a sufficient time, the cuticle peels off. This forms a good occasional substitute for a blister, especially in inflammatory sore throat, where external irritation rapidly excited is often singularly effectual in alleviating the internal tumefaction and pain. It would, probably, be a good application in croup, where a very quick external counteraction is wanted. The inhalation of the vapour of acetic acid has proved a useful remedy in hoarseness arising from local irritation of the larynx and epiglottis: it may be mixed in small quantity with boiling water in an inhaler, and used in the usual way.

The vapour of acetic acid is sometimes employed for the fumigation of sick rooms, where its only use is to cover any bad smell; for it is perfectly ineffectual as a destroyer of contagious or infectious matter. The *aphlogistic lamp*, as it is called, in which the vapour of alcohol, or of lavender water, or Eau de Cologne may be burned without flame, so as to form vinegar, also furnishes an elegant mode of fumigation.

Common vinegar and acetic acid in various states of dilution form a refreshing ingredient in diluent drinks in cases of inflammatory fever, and in those affections of the digestive and urinary organs which are attended by the appearance of *white* deposits or sand in the urine; (phosphate of lime and ammoniaco-magnesian phosphate;) but lemon and orange juice, or other acid fruits, are generally preferred. Distilled vinegar is a proper addition to lotions containing acetate of lead; diluted with rose or elderflower water, it does good in chronic ophthalmia; and with vegetable astringents it forms a good addition to gargles in relaxed uvula and superficial inflammation of the posterior fauces. A glyster of diluted vinegar is sometimes used in typhus fever, and is a useful evacuant of the lower bowels.

R Aceti fʒij

Infusi Anthemidis fʒv.

M. pro enema.

Acetic acid has sometimes been recommended as an effectual antidote to the narcotic poisons; but the accounts which we have of its virtues in these cases are quite unsatisfactory, and the chemical history of opium and other narcotics by no means sanctions such application of this acid.

**ACIDIUM CITRICUM.**—*Crystallised Citric Acid.* This acid occurs again under the “Preparations,” where the mode of obtaining it and its uses will be pointed out. It is properly

inserted in the *Materia Medica* as one of those articles which are chiefly prepared upon a large scale by the manufacturer. Its average wholesale price is about ten shillings per pound.

**ACIDIUM SULPHURICUM**—*Sulphuric Acid*. “The specific gravity of this acid is to the specific gravity of distilled water as 1·850 to 1·000.”

This very important acid used formerly to be obtained by the distillation of sulphate of iron, or green vitriol; hence the term *oil of vitriol*. It is now almost exclusively manufactured, in this country, according to the following process. A mixture of about 8 parts of sulphur and 1 of nitre is burnt in a capacious leaden chamber, the bottom of which is covered with water, by which the fumes are successively condensed, and which ultimately becomes very sour. When it has attained a certain specific gravity it is removed, and concentrated by evaporation, first in leaden, and afterwards in glass or platinum vessels, until it attains a due specific gravity. The fumes originally evolved by the burning sulphur and nitre appear to consist of sulphurous acid and nitrous acid; this mixture is absorbed and decomposed by the water in such a way that the sulphurous acid becomes sulphuric acid at the expense of the oxygen of the nitrous acid, which is reduced to nitric oxide. The sulphuric acid remains in combination with the water, but the nitric oxide is thrown off into the chamber, and again forms nitrous acid, by uniting with the oxygen of the atmospheric air; this is again ready to blend with the sulphurous acid, and to convert it into sulphuric acid as above stated. The nitrous acid, therefore, acts as a carrier of oxygen from the atmosphere to the sulphurous acid. For a more full explanation of the formation of this acid, the reader is referred to chemical works.

Sulphuric acid, as it occurs in commerce, in its purest state, is a dense, unctuous, and colourless liquid, of the specific gravity of 1·848; if heavier, it generally contains 2 or 3 *per cent.* of sulphate of potassa, which remains on the evaporation of the acid in a platinum capsule. It is caustic, and intensely sour, even when very largely diluted with water. It has a very strong attraction for water, and absorbs it rapidly from the atmosphere; hence it requires to be kept in well-stopped vessels. When mixed with water, there is a considerable elevation of temperature, accompanied by a diminution of bulk: 4 parts of acid suddenly mixed with 1 of water, at 50°, acquire a temperature of nearly 300°; hence caution is requisite in mixing the acid and water, especially in glass vessels: the acid should be added gradually to the water, and the mixture stirred after each addition. It sometimes happens that on dilution the acid acquires an opalescent appearance, and



gradually deposits a white powder, which is sulphate of lead, a salt sparingly soluble in the concentrated, but insoluble in the dilute acid. On evaporating 100 parts of common sulphuric acid in a platinum capsule, there is usually a residue of about 1 *per cent.*, consisting of the sulphates of potassa and of lead.

Sulphuric acid is largely consumed in the pharmaceutical laboratory. Its real strength or value may be most accurately determined by ascertaining its saturating power in regard to *dry* subcarbonate of soda, of which salt 100 grains neutralise 92 grains of pure liquid sulphuric acid. Supposing sulphuric acid to be pure, its value or strength will be directly as its specific gravity; and the following valuable table, by Dr. Ure, shows the quantity of the liquid acid and of real or dry acid in 100 parts, by weight, of the diluted acid at different densities.

*Table of the Quantity of Oil of Vitriol and Dry Sulphuric Acid in 100 parts of Dilute, at different Densities.*

| Liquid. | Sp. Gr. | Dry.  | Liquid. | Sp. Gr. | Dry.  | Liquid. | Sp. Gr. | Dry.   |
|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|--------|
| 100     | 1.8485  | 81.54 | 66      | 1.5503  | 53.82 | 32      | 1.2334  | 26.09  |
| 99      | 1.8475  | 80.72 | 65      | 1.5390  | 53.00 | 31      | 1.2260  | 25.28  |
| 98      | 1.8460  | 79.90 | 64      | 1.5280  | 52.18 | 30      | 1.2184  | 24.46  |
| 97      | 1.8439  | 79.09 | 63      | 1.5170  | 51.37 | 29      | 1.2108  | 23.65  |
| 96      | 1.8410  | 78.28 | 62      | 1.5066  | 50.55 | 28      | 1.2032  | 22.83  |
| 95      | 1.8376  | 77.46 | 61      | 1.4960  | 49.74 | 27      | 1.1956  | 22.01  |
| 94      | 1.8336  | 76.65 | 60      | 1.4860  | 48.92 | 26      | 1.1876  | 21.20  |
| 93      | 1.8290  | 75.83 | 59      | 1.4760  | 48.11 | 25      | 1.1792  | 20.38  |
| 92      | 1.8233  | 75.02 | 58      | 1.4660  | 47.29 | 24      | 1.1706  | 19.57  |
| 91      | 1.8179  | 74.20 | 57      | 1.4560  | 46.48 | 23      | 1.1626  | 18.75  |
| 90      | 1.8115  | 73.39 | 56      | 1.4460  | 45.66 | 22      | 1.1549  | 17.94  |
| 89      | 1.8043  | 72.57 | 55      | 1.4360  | 44.85 | 21      | 1.1480  | 17.12  |
| 88      | 1.7962  | 71.75 | 54      | 1.4265  | 44.03 | 20      | 1.1410  | 16.31  |
| 87      | 1.7870  | 70.94 | 53      | 1.4170  | 43.22 | 19      | 1.1330  | 15.49  |
| 86      | 1.7774  | 70.12 | 52      | 1.4073  | 42.40 | 18      | 1.1246  | 14.68  |
| 85      | 1.7673  | 69.31 | 51      | 1.3977  | 41.58 | 17      | 1.1165  | 13.86  |
| 84      | 1.7570  | 68.49 | 50      | 1.3884  | 40.77 | 16      | 1.1090  | 13.05  |
| 83      | 1.7465  | 67.68 | 49      | 1.3788  | 39.95 | 15      | 1.1019  | 12.23  |
| 82      | 1.7360  | 66.86 | 48      | 1.3697  | 39.14 | 14      | 1.0953  | 11.41  |
| 81      | 1.7245  | 66.05 | 47      | 1.3612  | 38.32 | 13      | 1.0887  | 10.60  |
| 80      | 1.7120  | 65.23 | 46      | 1.3530  | 37.51 | 12      | 1.0809  | 9.78   |
| 79      | 1.6993  | 64.42 | 45      | 1.3440  | 36.69 | 11      | 1.0743  | 8.97   |
| 78      | 1.6870  | 63.60 | 44      | 1.3345  | 35.88 | 10      | 1.0682  | 8.15   |
| 77      | 1.6750  | 62.78 | 43      | 1.3255  | 35.06 | 9       | 1.0614  | 7.34   |
| 76      | 1.6630  | 61.97 | 42      | 1.3165  | 34.25 | 8       | 1.0544  | 6.52   |
| 75      | 1.6520  | 61.15 | 41      | 1.3080  | 33.43 | 7       | 1.0477  | 5.71   |
| 74      | 1.6415  | 60.34 | 40      | 1.2999  | 32.61 | 6       | 1.0405  | 4.89   |
| 73      | 1.6321  | 59.52 | 39      | 1.2913  | 31.80 | 5       | 1.0336  | 4.08   |
| 72      | 1.6204  | 58.71 | 38      | 1.2826  | 30.98 | 4       | 1.0268  | 3.26   |
| 71      | 1.6090  | 57.89 | 37      | 1.2740  | 30.17 | 3       | 1.0206  | 2.446  |
| 70      | 1.5975  | 57.08 | 36      | 1.2654  | 29.35 | 2       | 1.0140  | 1.63   |
| 69      | 1.5868  | 56.26 | 35      | 1.2572  | 28.54 | 1       | 1.0074  | 0.8154 |
| 68      | 1.5760  | 55.45 | 34      | 1.2490  | 27.72 |         |         |        |
| 67      | 1.5648  | 54.63 | 33      | 1.2409  | 26.91 |         |         |        |

By the term *dry* sulphuric acid we mean the acid as it exists in combination with the salifiable bases, independent of water: by the term *liquid* sulphuric acid we mean the acid as it usually occurs, of the specific gravity of 1·848, in which state it contains 1 proportional of dry acid = 40, and 1 of water = 9, and is represented by the equivalent 49. The *dry* acid is constituted of

|                               |           |            |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 proportional of Sulphur.... | 16....    | 40         |
| 3 ————— Oxygen....            | 24....    | 60         |
|                               | <u>40</u> | <u>100</u> |

Concentrated sulphuric acid boils at about 570°, and freezes at —15°. The dilute acid, of the specific gravity 1·780, freezes at 45°, and when of the specific gravity 1·790, at 32°.

The medical uses of this acid will be found under the head of “diluted sulphuric acid,” in the second part of this work. In consequence of the domestic uses to which the concentrated acid is sometimes applied, cases are not very uncommon in which it has been swallowed by mistake, and in many of which it has proved fatal. The best antidote is a copious draught of chalk and water, or, where it can be speedily procured, of magnesia, or of carbonate of soda, or potash, and water. Instances have occurred in which the concentrated acid has remained for some hours in the stomach, and has been ejected by vomiting; the patient having afterwards recovered. In these cases a very copious secretion of viscid mucus appears to have defended the parts from the immediate corrosive action of the acid.

**ACONITI FOLIA**—*The Leaves of the Aconitum Napellus*<sup>1</sup>, or *Monkshood*, so called from the form of its flowers. This hardy perennial herbaceous plant, which grows wild in many of the mountainous parts of Europe, is abundantly cultivated as an ornament to our gardens and shrubberies. The stem is firm, elongated, 5 or 6 feet high, and terminating in the spike of flowers, racemose and branched below with single-flowered peduncles. The lower leaves are few, alternate, on long-channelled petioles, palmated, or rather pedate, being divided at the base into five broad cuneiform divisions, deeply cleft and toothed; the petioles are shorter, and the leaves less divided, the nearer they are to the summit of the stem: the colour of the whole is a deep green on the upper side, and a pale green on the under; both sides are smooth. The flowers are deep violet, and stand alternately on the spikes on unifloral erect

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 13. Ord. 3. Polyandria Trigynia. Nat. Ord. Multisiliquæ, Linn. Ranunculaceæ, Juss.



axillary peduncles. They have no calyx, but two small erect calycinal stipulas are placed on each side of the peduncle, near the flower; the petals are five, the uppermost helmet-shaped and beaked, covering two singular peduncled nectaries: the lateral ones broad and roundish, the lower oblong, elliptical, and divaricating: these four are slightly pubescent. The nectaries are cucullated, the spur of each being hooked and blunt; the lip lanceolate, revolute, and bifid. The filaments are spread and white at the base, where they closely cover the germens; but the upper part is filiform, purple, spreading, and bearing whitish anthers: the germens are 3, 4, or 5, with simple reflective stigmas, and become capsules containing many angular seeds.

The leaves of aconite have little taste till long chewed, when they are acrid, and somewhat bitter, producing a tingling sensation upon the tongue, followed by some tumefaction, and greatly impairing the power of taste for some hours afterwards.

The common preparation of aconite is the extract or inspissated juice of the leaves, which, in doses between half a grain and five grains, is said to be narcotic and diuretic; but it is much too uncertain in its effect, and too mischievous in over-doses, to be employed with safety or satisfaction, and might, without inconvenience, be expunged from the list of the *Materia Medica*. The dried leaves, and a tincture of them, have also been used, but the former are very uncertain. Obstinate chronic rheumatism is the only disease in which it ever appears to have been useful: some have prescribed it in scrophula, and for secondary venereal symptoms, combining with calomel, antimonials, camphor, guaiacum, &c.

In using aconite great care should be taken that it is the proper species, as some of them are comparatively inert: when the juice is expressed, much of the acrimony will be found in the residuary herb, which should be digested in spirit, and its extract added to that of the juice (see *Extract of Aconite*). The existence of a peculiar alkaline base in aconite, as announced by Brandes, seems doubtful.

ADEPS—*The Lard of the Sus Scrofa, or Hog*.—This is a very useful article in the formation of ointments, and the more tenacious and unctuous class of liniments. It combines with the fixed and volatile oils, with camphor, and with the resins. It fuses at a temperature of about 100°, and, like other varieties of fat, it appears to consist of an oil and a suet in combination, which may be imperfectly separated by pressure between folds of bibulous paper. Chevreul has called the former ingredient *elaine*, and the latter *stearine*; from the Greek words *ελαιον* and *στεαρ*, signifying oil and tallow. By long exposure to air,

lard becomes rancid and sourish, and in that state acquires certain solvent and oxidating powers which it did not before possess.

Official preparation. *Adeps preparata*.

**ÆRUGO**—*Verdigris*; *Impure Subacetate of Copper*.—This is often a very impure and consequently uncertain preparation of copper, and should be omitted in the list of *Materia Medica*.

It is prepared by exposing thin sheet copper to the fumes of vinegar or sour wine lees; the encrusting acetate is scraped off, made into a paste with vinegar, and pressed into moulds: it is usually in masses of a variegated blue-green colour. It is a hydrated subacetate of the peroxide of copper, composed of

|                        |   |   |   |     |   |   |       |
|------------------------|---|---|---|-----|---|---|-------|
| 1 atom of Acetic Acid  | . | . | . | 51  | . | . | 27.5  |
| 1 „ Peroxide of Copper | . | . | . | 80  | . | . | 43.2  |
| 6 „ Water (9×6)        | . | . | . | 54  | . | . | 29.3  |
|                        |   |   |   | 185 |   |   | 100.0 |

Mr. Phillips states the following as the composition of the three varieties of verdigris which occur in commerce:—

|                     | Blue Crystals. | French Verdigris. | English Verdigris. |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Acetic Acid .....   | 28.30          | 29.3              | 29.62              |
| Peroxide of Copper. | 43.25          | 43.5              | 42.25              |
| Water.....          | 28.45          | 25.2              | 25.5               |
| Impurity .....      | —              | 2                 | 0.62               |
|                     | 100            | 100               | 100                |

If an acetate of copper be at all required, the *crystallised verdigris* should be employed; but, as far as all pharmaceutical uses are concerned, the sulphate of copper may be substituted. The London Pharmacopœia directs the old *mel Ægyptiacum*, or *oximel æruginis*, under the title of *linimentum æruginis*, and this is certainly a useful detergent application to some ulcerating sores; but a solution of sulphate of copper in common oxymel is a preferable substitute.

Independent of the adulterations to which common verdigris is subject, there is a substance occasionally found in trade, under the name of *English verdigris*, which is made by triturating acetate of lead and sulphate of copper with a certain quantity of chalk and water; the mixture is dried in cakes, and grape-stalks added *ad libitum*.

According to Dr. Paris, powdered verdigris is the active ingredient in the quack medicine called *Smellome's Eye-Salve*.

Official preparation. *Linimentum æruginis*.



**ALLII RADIX**—*The Root of the Allium sativum, or common Garlic*<sup>1</sup>. The root is perennial, composed of several bulbs wrapped in a common membrane, and sending off long white fibres from its base: the stem rises about two feet; the leaves are long and grass-like, numerous at the root and few upon the stem: the flowers arise between the small bulbs which terminate the stem in a cluster, each flower being small, whitish, and commonly abortive; the calyx is a spathe common to all the florets and bulbs; it is roundish and withered: the corolla consists of six oblong petals: the filaments are six, tapering, alternately trifid, shorter than the corolla, and furnished with oblong erect anthers: the germen is placed above the insertion of the corolla, short, angular, and supports a simple style, terminated by an acute stigma; the capsule is short, broad, trilobed, three-celled, and contains roundish seeds: it flowers in July.

The ordinary properties of garlic are too well known to require any particular enumeration, and its medical qualities are not such as to detain us long; indeed, for which of its merits it is retained in the Pharmacopœia it is difficult to say. Like the other members of its family, it loses its virtues by long boiling, and if distilled affords a bitter, highly acrid, and odorous essential oil. If used with more judgment than belongs to ordinary cooks, garlic improves the flavour of a numerous class of sauces, but entirely spoils them if added in such proportions as to become prominent. It loses about half its weight, but none of its acrimony, by keeping.

The diseases in which garlic has been praised are, obstinate agues, by Bergius; dropsical affections, by Sydenham; and in scurvy, as preventive and curative, by Dr. Lind. A boiled clove of garlic, or a garlic poultice, is a common domestic application to indolent tumours and tardily-proceeding boils; it is sometimes applied to the soles of the feet to cause what is called revulsion from the head or breast; and has long been celebrated as an anthelmintic, when boiled in milk. A gentleman who had suffered under a complication of what were called nervous diseases, recovered after partaking largely of a soup over-seasoned with garlic, which was followed by the evacuation of a *lumbricus teres*, evidently the cause of his distressing complaints. But this is no case in specific favour of garlic, and generally it heats and stimulates, and much aggravates the temporary fever from which all persons suffer more or less after eating more than is good for them. It soon impregnates the secretions with its odour.

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 6. Ord. 1. Hexandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Spathaceæ, Linn. Asphodeli, Juss.

As an external stimulant, the pulp or juice of garlic is not only rubefacient, but will blister the skin.

**ALOES SPICATÆ EXTRACTUM**—*The Extract of the Spiked Aloe*<sup>1</sup>, commonly called *Socotrine Aloes*.—The root is perennial, strong, fibrous; the flower-stems rise three or four feet, and are smooth and erect, scaly towards the top: the leaves are numerous, and proceed from the upper part of the root; they are narrow, tapering, thick or fleshy, succulent, smooth, glaucous, and beset at the edges with spiny teeth: the flowers are produced in terminal spikes, and of a reddish colour; there is no calyx; the corolla is monopetalous, tubular, nectariferous, cut into six narrow leaves which separate at the mouth; the filaments are six, tapering, yellowish, inserted into the receptacle, and furnished with oblong orange-coloured anthers: the germen is oblong, supporting a simple slender style, of the length of the filaments, and terminated by an obtuse stigma: the capsule is oblong and divided into three cells, and contains many angular seeds. It is a native of Africa, flowering most part of the year.

There can be little doubt, that the *aloe spicata* affords a very fine variety of the aloes of commerce, of which that imported from the Cape of Good Hope may be taken as a sample; but it is equally clear that the aloes met with in trade is of very different qualities, and although all the better kinds bear the name of Socotrine aloes, that they were never near the island whence it is professed they come.

The fact is, that the greater part of the aloes we meet with is imported from Bombay, and not unfrequently remelted in this country, with a view of improving its tint and odour, and sometimes of deteriorating its quality by the addition of common rosin, a fraud easily detected by the insolubility of such adulterated aloes in boiling water: it is probably the inspissated juice or extract of several varieties of aloe; at all events, different samples differ remarkably in appearance and character.

The finest aloes, that, for instance, of the island of Socotorah, and some of that prepared at the Cape, has a brilliant reddish-brown colour, and is very translucent at the edges of the fragmented pieces: its fracture is smooth and conchoidal, its odour aromatic and rather agreeable, its powder deep gold colour, its taste intensely bitter and nauseous. But such is rarely found at the druggists'; there it is more opaque, of a dull brown (*Hepatic aloes*), often passing into black (*Caballine aloes*) of

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 6. Ord. 1. Hexandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Coronariæ, Linn. Asphodeli, Juss.



an odour generally decidedly disagreeable, and of a taste more than ordinarily nauseous. It is, however, scarcely necessary to enter at length into a description of these varieties of aloes, since their medical virtues do not seem to be essentially different, and accordingly we may select for pharmaceutical use that which has the least unpleasant odour, and which, at the same time, seems to have suffered least from heat in its manufacture, and which remains translucent, and gives a rich brown powder.

Aloes appears to be a mixture of gum, extractive, and resin, but whether its activity resides in one or all of these components has not been very accurately ascertained. The relative proportion of the extractive to the resin has been variously stated, and of course differs in the different kinds: the bitter extract will be found to constitute 70 to 80 per cent. of the commonly occurring aloes, and the resin 20 to 30 per cent. The action of nitric acid upon aloes is attended with some interesting chemical results, which have been examined by Braconnot and Liebeg, but they throw no light upon its medicinal uses. Aloes is nearly entirely soluble in boiling water, but, as the solution cools, some resin and altered extractive are thrown down: the alkalies and their carbonates form with it permanent solutions, and proof-spirit dissolves and retains it with only a slight precipitation of resin.

The medical qualities of aloes are such as give it a place of its own in the *Materia Medica*. It is a warm stimulating purgative; its action is chiefly upon the large intestines, of which it singularly promotes the evacuation, probably by increasing the muscular or peristaltic action rather than by augmenting their secretions, for it rarely produces liquid motions. It generally sits well upon the stomach, and its bitterness promotes appetite and digestion; when in the small intestines, it creates little alarm, and is seldom perceived till the sigmoid flexure of the colon feels its influence, the peristaltic movements of which are often perceptibly increased to the sensations of the patient, and then the rectum is quietly emptied.

Much has been said of the mischief done by aloes in irritating the rectum, and no doubt it is liable to create excitement there, but this is only where it is frequently used, and in cases of habitual costiveness all other purgatives are open to the same objection. Sedentary, studious, and idle persons, and more especially females in the higher classes of society, often resort to purgatives to obtain that regularity of intestinal evacuation which bodily exertion and due exercise only will ensure; and aloes, in consequence of its moderate, but at the same time

certain operation, is among the usual remedies thus erroneously employed; whence a portion of the ill fame which it has acquired as especially productive of piles and uterine and rectal irritation.

In all cold indolent habits, where costiveness is attended by general sluggishness of the circulating system, with loss of appetite, irritability of temper, with disinclination both to mental and bodily exertion, and other symptoms of the milder hypochondriasis; where there is dyspepsia in females, blended with the disorders which arise from irregularity and inertness in the uterine system, aloes, in one or other of the forms I shall presently mention, is a valuable and safe remedy; and it is by far the most certain and secure substance for the relief of that temporary, but often obstinate and injurious costiveness, which usually follows the exhibition of opium.

But there are cases in which aloetics are hurtful, and, to use a medical phrase, in which they are decidedly contraindicated. Such, for instance, are plethoric and irritable habits, subject to hæmorrhoidal affections, or to excessive uterine evacuations.

The dose of aloes may vary from two to ten or fifteen grains; about five grains will usually evacuate the bowels in one or two bulky motions; but it is seldom that we give aloes alone, and under some of the aloetic formulæ of the Pharmacopœia, we shall again take occasion to speak of its most common combinations.

The following pills are useful for obviating costiveness in dyspeptic habits, but they should not be kept too long in a dry place, as they are apt to become hard, and so insoluble as to pass through the bowels,—an inconvenience which may to a great extent be remedied by the addition to the mass of about a fourth part of sugar or of soap.

℞ Pulveris Aloës,  
 — Mastiche,  
 — Rhæi, aa ʒss.

Aquæ, q. s. ut fiant massa in pilulas xx. dividenda, quarum sumantur duæ vel tres ante prandium.

The time for taking these pills is immediately before dinner; they then blend with the food, prevent flatulency, and are usually found to be operative the following morning after breakfast.

Official Preparations. *Pulvis Aloes Compositus. Pilulæ Aloes compositæ. Pilulæ Aloes cum Myrrha. Pilulæ Cambogiæ compositæ. Extractum Aloes. Extractum Colocynthis compositum. Tinctura Aloes. Tinctura Aloes composita. Tinctura Benzoini composita. Vinum Aloes. Decoctum Aloes compositum.*

ALOES VULGARIS EXTRACTUM—*Extract of the*  
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*common Aloe ; Barbadoes Aloes.*—This kind of aloes is prepared in Barbadoes, and exported thence in large gourds, which contain upwards of half a hundred weight each.

It is generally deeper coloured and more opaque than the former ; its consistence is tougher, its fracture less shining, and its odour strong and peculiarly disagreeable ; the colour of its powder is dirty yellow, and it is said to be more active than Socotrine aloes, and hence, though its price usually exceeds that of the other varieties, it is much preferred in the preparation of horse medicines, a channel by which enormous quantities of aloes are consumed.

ALTHEÆ FOLIA ET RADIX—*The Leaves and Root of the Althea Officinalis*<sup>1</sup>, or *Marsh-Mallow*.—The marsh-mallow is a native of England, and grows in marshy places and near the shore : it flowers in July and August. The root is perennial, long, tough, white, and fibrous. The stems are annual, herbaceous, upright, and three or four feet high : the leaves are oval, lobed and serrated, and covered with soft down : the stipulæ are two, narrow, and placed at the base of each leaf-stalk : the flowers consist of five petals, inversely heart-shaped, indented at the apex, and of a pale purple colour : the calyx is double, the exterior consisting of nine, and the interior of five narrow-pointed segmens : the stamina are numerous, united at the base and terminated by kidney-shaped anthers : the germen is orbicular : the styles cylindrical, and furnished with bristly stigmas : the seeds are kidney-shaped, numerous, placed in a circle, and covered with an arillus.

The decoction of the marsh-mallow is a viscid mucilaginous liquid, sometimes used as a demulcent drink, but having nothing to recommend it in preference to barley-water, solution of gum arabic, and other more attainable diluents of the same nature. The roots are dug up for use in the autumn. 100 parts of the dried root contain, according to Leo Meyer, mucilage with malic acid and several salts 20, sweet extractive matter 10·14, starch and inulin 2 ; woody fibre 66. Plisson has shown that the supposed principle called *althein* is asparagin, which this root yields in small quantity.

ALUMEN—*Alum ; Sulphate of Alumina and Potassa.*—This salt crystallises in octoedra, and is soluble in 5 parts of water at 60° ; its taste is sweet, astringent, and acidulous, and it reddens vegetable blues. As an article of the *Materia Medica*, it ranks with the more powerful astringents, and as such it is sometimes, though rarely, employed internally, in

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<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 16. *Ord.* 8. Monadelphia Polyandria. *Nat. Ord.* Columniferæ, Linn. Malvaceæ, Juss.

doses of from 5 to 15 grains, conjoined with some aromatic ; but it is apt to gripe and nauseate when large doses are frequently repeated. The diseases in which it has been thus administered are agues, internal hæmorrhages, and gleans ; in the latter, alum-whey has sometimes proved serviceable, which may be prepared as follows—

R Lactis Vaccini bullientis oct. j.  
 Aluminis Contriti ʒij.  
 Ebulliant simul ut fiat coagulum, coletur serum, et sumatur  
 cyathus subinde.

Or, alum may be given in pills, as follows—

R Aluminis Contriti,  
 Pulv. Cinnam. Compos. āā ʒss.  
 Confectionis Rosæ Gallicæ q. s. ut fiat massa in pilulas  
 xvij. dividenda ; ij. vel iij. pro dosi.

Externally applied, alum is useful in chronic ophthalmia and in gleans, and forms a good addition to gargles in relaxed uvula.

The following are formulæ for an aluminous collyrium and gargle—

R Aluminis gr. vj. Solve in  
 Aquæ Rosæ f ʒv. ut fiat collyrium.  
 R Aluminis ʒj.  
 Aquæ Rosæ f ʒv.  
 Tinctur. Cardam. Compos. f ʒij.  
 Mellis Despumati f ʒvj.  
 M. fiat gargarisma sæpe utendum.

A saturated solution of alum is recommended by Dr. Scudamore as a remarkably efficacious styptic<sup>1</sup>. One ounce of water holds about 30 grains of alum in permanent solution.

What is termed *alum curd* is sometimes used as an astringent and cooling external application. It is made by agitating the white of egg with a lump of alum till it forms a soft coagulum.

When alum is exposed to heat it undergoes fusion in its water of crystallisation, which being evaporated, the dry salt remains in the form of a light porous mass, formerly called *burnt alum*, *alumen ustum* ; it is the *alumen exsiccatum* of the Pharmacopœia. By this process alum loses about 40 per cent. of its weight, provided too much heat has not been employed, in which last case a portion of the acid of the salt is also volatilised, but the whole cannot be thus driven off.

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<sup>1</sup> Essay on the Blood, p. 155.



Dried alum is chiefly used as an external styptic; it has been recommended in doses of 20 grains, in cholica pictonum, but it seems of doubtful propriety in that disease.

Alum, according to Mr. R. Phillips, is composed of

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Sulphuric acid ..... | 34·94 |
| Alumina .....        | 11·18 |
| Potassa.....         | 10·33 |
| Water .....          | 43·55 |
|                      | <hr/> |
|                      | 100·  |

Besides the above, which may be called potassa-alum, a triple salt may be formed with ammonia and with soda, but these compounds have nothing to do with pharmacy.

Official Preparations. *Alumen exsiccatum. Liquor Aluminis compos.*

**AMMONIACUM**—A gum resin, according to Tournefort, the produce of the *Ferula Orientalis*<sup>1</sup>, a native of Asia Minor and the north of Africa. Wildenow supposed it the produce of the *Heracleum gummiferum*, a native of Africa and the East Indies, whence the finest is imported into Europe, either in separate drops, or in cakes and masses, which appear to consist of the tears agglutinated. That which is decidedly gutti-form, of a clean and deep buff-colour externally, paler within, and free from impurities, is most esteemed. Ammoniacum has little smell, but its taste is bitter, nauseous, and somewhat pungent. In warm weather, it is of a very tough and unmanageable consistence, but in lower temperatures it becomes brittle, and it may be powdered and sifted in frosty weather, which is a better mode of freeing it from mixed impurities, than straining it when softened by boiling water. The powdered ammoniacum should be packed up in small oblong parcels, as it will afterwards again agglutinate. The chemical characters of ammoniacum are those of a gum resin; it is imperfectly soluble in water and in alcohol; but triturated with the former, the soluble gummy portion suspends the resin, and the mixture is tolerably permanent. According to Bucholz, 100 parts contain—

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Volatile oil . . . . . | 4·0   |
| Resin . . . . .        | 72·0  |
| Gum . . . . .          | 22·4  |
| Bassorin . . . . .     | 1·6   |
|                        | <hr/> |
|                        | 100·  |

Ammoniacum is placed by systematic writers on the *Materia Medica* among the stimulating expectorants; antispasmodic virtues are also ascribed to it; but, independent of other aid,

<sup>1</sup> *Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Umbellatæ.*

little reliance can be placed in the use of ammoniacum as fulfilling such character, and this remedy is chiefly useful in combination with, or as a vehicle for more powerful and certain medicines. In the coughs to which aged persons are sometimes subject, unattended by inflammatory action, and characterised by the secretion of viscid mucus in the bronchiæ, with difficult expectoration and some degree of spasmodic action, ten grains of ammoniacum, three times a day, seem to have proved of service in allaying spasm and facilitating the evacuation of the mucous matter. The *mistura ammoniaci* of the Pharmacopœia may also be used in doses of from half an ounce to an ounce in cases of this kind; and in females, where it is desired to increase the activity of the uterine system as well as to fulfil the other abovementioned indications, a draught composed of ʒvj. of the *mistura ammoniaci*, with the same quantity of penny-royal water, may not be improperly administered. "In that peculiar state of the bowels often accompanying hypochondriasis and dyspepsia, in which there is an almost constant degree of cholic, particularly after taking food, and which appears to arise from a viscid mucus lodged in the intestines, a combination of ammoniacum and rhubarb is singularly efficacious<sup>1</sup>."

Ammoniacum softened with vinegar forms a good adhesive and slightly stimulating plaster; it should be applied as soft as possible, for it soon hardens, and adheres long and firmly to the part.

The *emplastrum ammoniaci* of the Pharmacopœia is a preparation of this kind; and the *emplastrum ammoniaci cum hydrargyro* another, supposed to derive alterative and discutient virtues from the mercury which it contains, and hence recommended as an application to hard and indolent glandular tumours.

Officinal Preparations. *Mistura Ammoniaci. Emplastrum Ammoniaci. Emplastrum Ammoniaci cum hydrargyro. Pilulæ Scillæ compositæ.*

AMMONIÆ MURIAS—*Muriate of Ammonia*.—We have little to say of this salt as an abstract article of the Materia Medica, but its uses in the pharmaceutical laboratory are numerous and important. It consists, exclusive of water of crystallisation, of 17 ammonia united to 37 muriatic acid, or per cent. of 31·5 ammonia and 68·5 muriatic acid, proportions corresponding to equal volumes of muriatic and ammoniacal gases, which upon mixture are entirely condensed into solid muriate of ammonia.

The manufacture of sal ammoniac is now extensively carried

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<sup>1</sup> Thomson's London Dispensatory, 1822, p. 325.



on in this country. Refuse animal matters, chiefly bones from which fat and glue have been extracted, are subjected to destructive distillation. The ammoniacal liquor which they afford is saturated with sulphuric acid, and the sulphate of ammonia thus obtained decomposed by mixture with common salt and sublimation: cakes of muriate of ammonia, having the shape of the subliming vessel, are thus obtained. They should be semi-transparent, and colourless, but are often tinged brown by iron. The distillation of pit coal also affords an impure ammoniacal liquor, from which sal ammonia is manufactured.

Muriate of ammonia may be crystallised in octoedra, but it commonly produces plumose crystals (*Flores Salis Ammoniaci simplices* of old writers). According to Geiger, hydrobromate of ammonia is sometimes found in the muriate of commerce: it may be detected by the brown discoloration occasioned by adding solution of chlorine.

Three parts of water at 60° dissolve 1 part of powdered sal ammoniac, and at 212° water takes up at least its own weight, part of which it again deposits on cooling, in dendritic crystals. It is very sparingly soluble in alcohol.

Muriate of ammonia is scarcely ever used internally; dissolved in lotions it forms a good stimulating discutient, and if mixed with its weight of powdered nitre and dissolved in 6 or 8 parts of water, it produces a very cold lotion, which may sometimes be conveniently used as a substitute for ice.

AMYGDALA AMARA }  
 ————— DULCIS } *Varieties of the Amygdalus com-*

*munis*<sup>1</sup>—*Bitter and Sweet Almonds*.—The almond-tree is a native of Syria and Barbary, but thrives well in all the warmer parts of Europe: in this country its fruit seldom ripens, but it forms an elegant ornament to our shrubberies, bearing its beautiful pink blossoms early in the spring and before the leaves appear. It attains the height of fifteen or twenty feet and is covered with grey bark: the leaves, which are about three inches long and three-fourths of an inch broad, are pointed at both ends, minutely serrated, and stand upon a short footstalk: they are bright green: the pale pink flowers are supported on short peduncles: the calyx is tubular with the lip divided into five blunt segments: the petals are five, oval and convex: the filaments about thirty, inserted into the calyx, tapering, spreading, of unequal lengths, and furnished with orange-coloured simple anthers; the germen is downy, with a simple

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<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 12. *Ord.* 1. Icosandria Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Pomaceæ, *Linn.* Rosaceæ, *Juss.*

style, supporting a round stigma: the fruit, which is of the peach kind but flatter, with a tough coriaceous covering, opens longitudinally when ripe: the kernel is inclosed in a spongy shell; it is oblong, flattened, pointed at one end and round at the other, and composed of two white cotyledons, covered with a brown furrowed skin.

The two varieties of almond are remarkably distinguished by the flavour of the kernel, being in the one, bland, sweetish, and inodorous; and in the other, of a bitter flavour, and, when rubbed with a little water, smelling of hydrocyanic acid.

Three varieties of sweet almond occur in commerce: the finest come from Malaga, and are called *Jordan Almonds*, of which there are two kinds; the one above an inch in length, flat, and with a clear, brown cuticle, sweet, mucilaginous, and rather tough: the other more plump and pointed at one end, brittle, but equally sweet with the former. The *Valentia Almond* is about three-eighths of an inch broad, not quite an inch long, round at one end, and obtusely pointed at the other, flat, of a dingy brown colour, and dusty cuticle. The *Barbary* and *Italian Almonds* resemble the latter, but are generally smaller and less flattened. There are also large and small bitter almonds, the latter having, generally, the most intense flavour: they come chiefly from Mogadore packed in boxes: the sweet almonds are imported in mats, casks, or cases. Rancid, worm-eaten, and broken almonds should be rejected. By steeping for a few minutes in boiling water, or some hours in cold water, the kernel may be squeezed out of the cuticle, or *blanched*.

According to Boullay, 100 parts of sweet almonds yield—

|                                   |   |   |   |   |   |           |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| Fixed oil                         | . | . | . | . | . | 54.0      |
| Albumen                           | . | . | . | . | . | 24.0      |
| Sugar                             | . | . | . | . | . | 6.0       |
| Gum                               | . | . | . | . | . | 3.0       |
| Water                             | . | . | . | . | . | 3.5       |
| Cuticle                           | . | . | . | . | . | 5.0       |
| Fibrin                            | . | . | . | . | . | 4.0       |
| Loss (and a trace of Acetic Acid) | . | . | . | . | . | 0.5       |
|                                   |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/> 100 |

Bitter almonds yield less fixed oil (30 to 35 per cent.) and more albumen.

Sweet almonds, triturated into a paste with sugar and a little water or mucilage, as directed for the *confectio amygdalarum* of the Pharmacopœia, and afterwards properly diluted and strained, as in the *mistura amygdalarum*, furnish a pleasant emulsion which may be used merely as a diluent drink, or as a vehicle for active remedies. In warm weather it becomes



sour in the course of 24 hours, and should therefore always be used fresh.

The expressed oil of almonds, in the formula above referred to, furnishes an elegant emulsion, and its tastelessness recommends it in preference to olive oil. With the alkalies it forms a soapy mixture which may be substituted for emulsion, or which sometimes, with an increased quantity of alkali, is used in renal and urinary irritation, especially that arising from uric sand.

R Olei Amygdalarum f ʒss.

Aquæ Rosæ f ʒij.

Liquoris Potassæ f ʒj. Misceantur agitatione, et adde

Syrupi Simplicis f ʒss.

Aquæ Distillatæ f ʒv.

M. fiat mistura, de qua sumantur f ʒij. pro dosi.

In cases of catarrh, with hoarseness, f ʒiss. of liquor ammoniæ, is sometimes substituted in the above mixture for the solution of potassa.

*Bitter Almonds—Hydrocyanic Acid.*—The source of the peculiar flavour of the bitter almond may be obtained by distillation with water; it then appears a volatile oil, generally heavier than water, having the concentrated odour of the bitter almond, and partaking of some of the chemical properties of the hydrocyanic acid. It is this ingredient which renders bitter almonds intensely poisonous to some animals, and not unfrequently they produce deleterious effects upon the human system.

The distilled oil is virulently active, and the symptoms attendant on poisoning by it are in some respects marked and peculiar. They have been thus enumerated by Dr. Granville<sup>1</sup>: “Stupor and numbness, with oppression and a sense of weight at the summit of the head; yawning and an irresistible disposition to sleep; vertigo, and dizziness of sight. All or any of these preliminary symptoms, according to the quantity of the poison taken, are generally observed by the practitioner, if sent for in time. The pulse is found to be rather strong at first, but flags soon after, and becomes either frequent, wiry, and small, or slow and vibrating. A paralytic state of the extremities is next remarked, the pupil remains unalterably dilated, the sensibility of the organs of sense is greatly diminished. Every animal function seems impaired, except respiration, which is very rarely indeed accelerated or difficult. Vomiting and hiccup shortly precede the aggravation of every nervous symptom, when life ebbs fast and becomes at last extinct.”

From Mr. Brodie's experiments to ascertain the mode in

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<sup>1</sup> Treatise on Prussic Acid, 1820, p. 89.

which death is immediately produced by this and analogous poisons, it would appear that they operate upon the nervous system; that through the medium of the nerves the influence of the poison is conveyed to the brain, the functions of which are more or less impaired; that the organs of respiration are thus secondarily affected, but that the action of the heart continues for a long time unimpaired, circulating venous blood: hence, if respiration be artificially performed, so as to aërate the blood, it sometimes happens that the animal permanently recovers. Upon these subjects the reader is referred to Mr. Brodie's papers in the *Philosophical Transactions*, and to Orfila's *Traité des Poisons*.

Essential oil of bitter almonds is largely prepared for the use of perfumers, confectioners, and cooks, who generally use what is called the essence of almonds, or a solution of 3ij. of the oil in 3vj. of alcohol; this is also the most convenient form for its pharmaceutical employment. One hundred weight of the bitter almond cake remaining in the press after the separation of the fixed oil, is put into the still with about 400 gallons of water, this large proportion being necessary to prevent the formation of a mucilaginous magma, from which the volatile oil will not pass off, and which often, if brought to boil, rises up into the head and worm of the still. The produce of oil is liable to much variation, 1 cwt. of cake yielding from 1 ounce to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  by weight. It often deposits a considerable portion of white crystallised matter, which is apparently a peculiar vegetable compound<sup>1</sup>. The oil appears to be composed of hydrocyanic acid in union with volatile oil. By digesting red oxide of mercury in it, Mr. Hennell obtained cyanuret of mercury, from which pure hydrocyanic acid was as usual procured by distilling it with muriatic acid.

The cases in which it has been proposed to administer this oil are those in which the diluted hydrocyanic acid has been recommended, and of which a full account will be found in Dr. Granville's "*Historical and Practical Treatise*." Affections of the lungs, preceded or connected with phthisis; coughs of a spasmodic character, and especially whooping cough; an irritable state of the nervous system; asthmatic complaints, and some cases of local irritation, are the principal diseases in which it has been found useful; and it may be administered with camphor and other antispasmodics.

There is so much difference in the strength of the diluted hydrocyanic acid usually sold for medical use, that it is difficult to state any precise dose in which it may be administered. That made at Apothecaries' Hall is prepared by mixing 1lb.

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<sup>1</sup> Quarterly Journal, vol. xv. p. 373.



of bicianuret of mercury, 1lb. of muriatic acid (sp. gr. 1.15), and 6lbs. of water, in a tubulated retort, and distilling off 6lbs. by a gentle heat. (A trace of muriatic acid sometimes passes over.) It has a specific gravity of 995, and contains 3.2 per cent. of real acid: upon this subject, Dr. Ure's observations in the Quarterly Journal<sup>1</sup> may be consulted with advantage. From 1 to 10 or 12 minims of such diluted acid may be regarded as the limits of its dose; but it is right to commence its use with caution, and gradually to increase the quantity given until an effect is observed.

The action of this acid, as well as of the volatile oil of almonds, depends much upon its state of concentration: of the latter, from 1 to 8 drops or minims in an ounce or an ounce and a half of any proper vehicle may generally be safely given. If sense of faintness, attended by nausea, chills, giddiness, or dimness of sight, should ensue, the dose must be diminished. Among others, the following formulæ for the exhibition of oil of bitter almonds may be used—

R Olei Essent. Amygd Amar. ℥viiij.

Mucilaginis Arabici ℥ij.

Misturæ Camphoræ f℥vj.

M. fiat mistura, de qua sumantur cochlear. duo ampla bis vel ter die.

The hydrocyanic acid, or the essential oil of almonds, may be added to the mixture prescribed at page 4, in cases of cough and catarrhal irritation of the larynx.

*Cyanuret of potassium*, obtained by decomposing ferrocyanate of potassa at a red heat, dissolving, filtering, and evaporating the solution, has been proposed as a substitute for hydrocyanic acid. One part dissolved in 8 of water forms a solution which may be given in the same doses as the acid.

Ammonia has been proposed as the best stimulant to counteract the effects of an over-dose of hydrocyanic acid: aqueous solution of chlorine would probably be more effectual, at least as a decomposing agent.

In cases of poisoning by hydrocyanic acid, its presence in the contents of the stomach may be ascertained for some days after death by its odour; when this goes off, the acid has probably evaporated or decomposed, and will be in vain sought for by chemical tests. When mixed with other substances in the stomach, the contents of that organ, or the stomach itself, cut into small pieces, should be introduced into a retort, with water slightly acidulated by sulphuric acid, and distilled from a sand heat into a cooled receiver: the liquid which passes

<sup>1</sup> Vol. xiii. p. 313.

over may be tested by adding to it a solution of green vitriol, precipitating the oxide of iron by slight excess of pure potassa, and then acidulating with muriatic acid, so as to redissolve the precipitate: a blue tint appears if prussic acid were present. When, however, it is not discernible by its odour, other methods are equivocal.

AMYLUM—*The Starch of Wheat. Triticum Hibernum*<sup>1</sup>. *Winter-Wheat*.—This important grain was first cultivated in Sicily. When wheat, swollen and softened by steeping in water, is subjected to pressure, the milky juice which exudes, being diffused through water, deposits a fine impalpable powder, which, when duly washed and carefully dried, splits into columnar masses, known as common starch. It has usually a yellowish hue, which is covered in the starch of commerce by the addition of smalt, or, as in Hall's patent process, is removed by the action of chlorine. For medical use, however, the pure and genuine starch should be used, its colour being unimportant. Starch is marked by well-defined chemical characters. It is insoluble in cold water, but readily dissolves in water at 160°, and at 180° it forms a thick jelly, which in warm weather soon liquefies, and becomes mouldy, sour, and very fetid. The diluted jelly of starch is copiously precipitated by subacetate of lead, and, when solution of iodine is added to it, a very characteristic blue compound is immediately formed.

Starch, which has been heated till it acquires a pale brown colour, loses its peculiarities, and is converted into a substance soluble in cold water, not precipitable by iodine, and having the leading chemical characters of gum.

Starch is a very nutritious article of food, and exists abundantly in the greater number of esculent grains and roots. A warm solution of starch is often employed as a vehicle for opium and other sedatives, when administered in the form of enema. For this purpose the *mucilago amyli* is directed in the Pharmacopœia.

Several substances, agreeing in essential characters with the starch of wheat, have long been used as common articles of food, especially in the diet of invalids. One of the commonest and most pleasant of these is arrow-root, which professes to be the fecula of the root of the *maranta arundinacea*, but for which potato-starch is, it is said, often substituted. Good arrow-root should be free from all musty flavour, white, insipid, and form a consistent jelly when dissolved in eight parts of boiling water. Sago is obtained from the pith of several species of palm, and is granulated by passing it, when half dry, through a coarse sieve. Tapioca and cassava are procured

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 3. Ord. 2. Triandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Gramina.



from the root of the *iatropa manihot*: Salep from the bulbs of the *orchis mascula*. There are a variety of other amylaceous preparations used in different parts of the world as articles of food.

Official Preparation.—*Mucilago Amyli*.

ANETHI SEMINA—*Dill Seed*—the Seed of the *Anethum graveolens*<sup>1</sup>.—The root is fusiform and long, sending off strong fibres: several stems generally rise from the same root, and are erect, smooth, channelled, branched, and about two feet high; the leaves stand upon sheathy footstalks, placed at the joints of the stalk, and are alternate, smooth, doubly pinnated, with the pinnae linear and pointed; the flowers are produced in terminal umbels, which are large, flat, and, like the partial umbels, composed of several radii; it has no involucre; the corolla consists of five petals, which are yellow, egg-shaped, obtuse, concave, and their points turned inwards; the five filaments are yellow, longer than the corolla, and furnished with roundish anthers; the germen is placed below the insertion of the petals, and is covered by the nectary; the two styles are very short, and terminated by obtuse stigmata; the seeds are two, oval, flat, striated, and surrounded with a membranous margin. The flowers appear in June and July.

Dill is a native of Spain and Portugal. The seeds have a warm and pungent flavour, something resembling that of carraways, and are sometimes administered in the form of powder, as a carminative for infants. They derive their aromatic character from an essential oil, which they yield in the proportion of about 2lb. from 1 cwt. Distilled with water they afford the *aqua anethi*, or dill-water, of the Pharmacopœia, which is a convenient and effective substitute for the powder of the seeds, and, in doses of a tea-spoonful to a table-spoonful, seldom fails to relieve the flatulency of stomach to which young infants are subject, and which is often attended by hiccup and other distressing symptoms.

Dill seed should be chosen of a fresh and bright colour, heavy, and of an agreeably aromatic odour. That which is dull, light, inodorous, or musty, should be rejected.

Official Preparation.—*Aqua Anethi*.

ANISI SEMINA—*Aniseed*—the Seed of the *Pimpinella Anisum*<sup>2</sup>.—Anise is occasionally cultivated in our gardens, and flowers in July and August; its root is annual and fusiform; the stem rises about a foot in height, and is upright, branched, striated, jointed, and smooth. The leaves on the

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Umbellatæ.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

upper part of the stem are divided into narrow pinnated segments, but at the bottom they are roundish, separated in three or five indented lobes, and stand upon scored sheathlike foot-stalks; the flowers are small, white, and placed in umbels, which are terminal, flat, without involucre. The seeds are oblong, swelling, striated, and of a dingy green colour.

The taste of aniseed is warm and sweet; it should be free from mustiness, and, when rubbed in the hands, exhale its peculiar aromatic odour. The small and more compact seed, imported from Spain, is usually preferred to the lighter and larger kind, which is the growth of this country. By distillation it affords a volatile oil, which is obtained in the proportion of from lbj. ʒijss. to lbijss. from 1 cwt. of seed. But the produce of oil is very variable, and, generally speaking, it is imported for pharmaceutical use from Spain. At about 50° this oil concretes, and, as this is a leading character, it should be attended to in its purchase. It is said that spermaceti is sometimes added to increase its tendency to congeal; a fraud which I have never met with, and which would easily be detected by the action of cold alcohol, which would dissolve the oil and leave the adulteration; or simply by evaporation. Oil of aniseed, and spirit of aniseed, or spirituous liquors flavoured with it, are often used as stomachics and carminatives; in these respects, however, it is of very little use as an article of the *Materia Medica*. The great consumption of foreign oil of aniseed seems to be in the preparation of horse medicines.

Official Preparations.—*Oleum Anisi. Spiritus Anisi.*

**ANTHEMIDIS FLORES**—*Chamomile Flowers*—the single Flowers of the *Anthemis*<sup>1</sup> *nobilis*.—The roots are perennial, fibrous, and spreading: the stems slender, round, trailing, hairy, branched, of a pale green colour, and about a foot long. The leaves are doubly pinnated; the pinnæ are linear, pointed, a little hairy, and divided into 3 terminal segments; the flowers are compound, radiated, white, at the centre yellow, and stand singly; the calyx is common to all the florets, hemispherical, and composed of several small imbricated scales: the flowers of the radius are female, and usually about 18, narrow, white, and terminated with 3 small teeth; the tubular part of the floret incloses the whole of the style, but does not conceal the bifid reflexed stigma; the flowers of the disc are numerous, hermaphrodite, tubular, and cut at the brim into five segments; the filaments are five, very short, and have their anthers united, forming a hollow cylinder; the germen is oblong; the style short and slender, and furnished with a reflexed stigma; the

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<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 19. *Ord.* 2. *Syngenesia Superflua. Nat. Ord. Corymbiferae, Juss.*



seed small, irregular. The market is chiefly supplied with chamomile flowers by the cultivators of physical herbs; and they are met with of very different qualities. They should be selected fresh, and should strongly exhale their peculiar fragrance when rubbed. The large double flowers are sometimes preferred; but, as the virtue chiefly resides in the disc florets, the single kind is best.

Chamomile flowers have long been celebrated as an aromatic bitter; they derive their aroma from essential oil, of which about ʒjss. is obtained from 1 cwt., but the produce is very variable. Their bitterness resides in extractive matter; and as the oil is dissipated during boiling, the *extractum anthemidis* of the Pharmacopœia is merely a simple bitter, but a very good one. The *infusum anthemidis* of the Pharmacopœia, commonly known under the name of chamomile tea, partakes both of the aroma and bitterness, and, when taken strong and warm, proves nauseating and emetic, and is an excellent and ordinary auxiliary in emptying the stomach of its contents. A small tea-cupful of cold chamomile tea taken in the morning, fasting, is often serviceable in dyspeptic affections and intestinal debility. It is also a good vehicle for acids or alkalies. Chamomile flowers in powder were at one time employed in the cure of intermittents, but are now scarcely used in any case, the requisite dose of ʒij. or ʒj. being very bulky; the best form for its administration is, perhaps, as an electuary<sup>1</sup>. Decoction and infusion of chamomile flowers are often used externally as fomentations, but are little preferable to hot or warm water, excepting that the infused flowers, rolled up in a cloth or flannel, serve to retain the heat of the application.

Officinal Preparations.—*Infusum Anthemidis*. *Extractum Anthemidis*. *Oleum Anthemidis*.

ANTIMONII SULPHURETUM—*Sulphuret of Antimony*. ANTIMONII VITRUM—*Glass of Antimony*—*Vitrified Sulphuretted Oxide of Antimony*.—Sulphuret of antimony is an abundant natural product, and occurs in most mining districts. It is met with in commerce in cakes or loaves, which have been fused, and exhibit a brilliant steel-grey and radiated or fibrous crystalline texture when broken. In this state it is chiefly imported from Germany and Holland, often contaminated by lead, iron, and arsenic. If lead be present in any quantity, the texture of the cakes is foliated and indistinctly striated; iron is recognized by the brown colour produced

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Heberden says that the following, taken every night in powder, or in pills, proves signally useful in the relief of flatulence and eructations,—half a scruple of powder of chamomile flowers, three grains of long pepper, and one of aloes.—*Commentaries*.

by deflagration with nitre; and arsenic by its peculiar odour during volatilisation. Exposed to the joint action of a dull red heat and air, the greater portion of the sulphur may be burnt off, and the antimony becomes protoxidised; a slight increase of heat fuses this protoxide, a portion being at the same time volatilised, and the substance on cooling concretes into a reddish-brown vitreous mass, known and imported under the name of *glass of antimony*. It is a protoxide combined with a variable proportion, generally about one-tenth, of sulphuret, and is a very useful article in the pharmaceutical laboratory. In considering the antimonial preparations of the Pharmacopœia, we shall have occasion again to revert to this subject.

Pure sulphuret of antimony consists of

|               |         |       |
|---------------|---------|-------|
| Antimony..... | 45..... | 73.8  |
| Sulphur.....  | 16..... | 26.2  |
|               | <hr/>   | <hr/> |
|               | 61      | 100   |

It has long been discontinued as an internal remedy, except in a few nostrums for rheumatism and gout. It is apt, in some cases, to excite excessive vomiting and purging; and in others it is inert; its activity apparently depending upon the substances it meets with in the stomach and bowels.

ARGENTUM—*Refined Silver*.—This stands in the list of the Materia Medica, as the source of nitrate of silver. The metal, when pure, is entirely soluble in about its own weight of pure nitric acid, diluted with 2 parts of water. The solution is milky if the acid contain any trace of muriatic acid, and there is generally a small portion of residuary insoluble black powder, which is gold. If copper be present, the solution has a blue tinge, otherwise it is colourless. Silver leaf is sometimes used as a covering of pills, which in that state may be swallowed without being tasted.

ARMORACIÆ RADIX—*The Root of the Cochlearia Armoracia*<sup>1</sup> or *Horse Radish*.—This plant is often met with wild, but it is cultivated chiefly for domestic use. It has a long white tapering root, and a round erect branched stem, about two feet high: the radical leaves are large, lance-shaped and waved, crenate and occasionally pinnatifid; those of the stem are sessile and smaller, lanceolate, and sometimes entire, sometimes divided at the edges; the flowers are in terminal clusters, numerous and white. The leaves of the calyx are ovate, concave, spreading and deciduous; the petals obovate

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 15. Ord. 1. Tetradynamia Siliculosa. Nat. Ord. Siliquosæ, Linn. Cruciferae, Juss.



and inserted by narrow claws: the germen is heart-shaped, bearing a simple permanent style crowned with an obtuse stigma, and changing into an elliptical bilocular pod containing four seeds in each cell which are often abortive.

The qualities of horse-radish are too well known to need description, and its medical uses too insignificant to require any. The London Pharmacopœia directs a compound spirit, and a compound infusion of horse-radish, which are seldom used. The latter very soon spoils and putrefies. The acrimony of the root appears to reside in a volatile oil, much of which is lost on drying. 100 parts of fresh root contain, according to Gutret,

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Volatile oil .....                              | 0·06   |
| Bitter resin .....                              | 0·02   |
| Sugar and extractive .....                      | 2·73   |
| Gum .....                                       | 3·74   |
| Starch .....                                    | 2·45   |
| Albumen .....                                   | 0·10   |
| Acetic acid and acetate and sulphate of lime .. | 0·30   |
| Water .....                                     | 78·10  |
| Woody fibre .....                               | 12·50  |
|   | <hr/>  |
|   | 100·50 |

Official Preparations. *Infusum Armoraciæ comp. Spiritus Armorac. compos.*

**ARSENICI OXYDUM**—*White Oxide of Arsenic*—*Arsenious Acid*.—It is impossible too strongly to represent the evil of which the retention of arsenic in the Pharmacopœia is productive. To this alone nearly all the mischievous applications of this virulent poison are to be attributed, for its sale is thus facilitated; and as long as its unlicensed use is permitted for medical purposes, so long will it be the prevailing instrument of self-destruction and murder. Nor are there any plausible grounds upon which its unrestricted employment in pharmacy can be sanctioned or defended; for there can be little doubt that the diseases in the cure of which it has been supposed effective, admit in most cases of safer and more effectual treatment. But even allowing that, in some few and anomalous instances of disease, it may have proved decidedly serviceable, this is not sufficient to counterpoise the daily evils to which its present commercial circulation gives rise, or to warrant the permission of the unshackled sale of an article of such certain and deadly virulence. The other applications of arsenic, as a poison, for instance, for vermin, a cure for the dry rot, a means to prevent disease in wheat, and its employment in veterinary surgery, are of such obviously hurtful and dangerous tendency,

that the propriety of discontinuing them cannot admit of two opinions: for it is thus that arsenic finds its way into culinary vessels; that it gets accidentally mixed with articles of food; that bottles which have contained it are used for beer, wine, vinegar, or medicine; and in short, that numerous opportunities are afforded to the evil-minded of possessing themselves without suspicion of this deadly weapon, and to the ignorant and careless of causing the most disastrous and distressing accidents upon record.

White arsenic has been used internally as a tonic, principally in the cure of agues; externally it has been occasionally applied to all kinds of ill-conditioned ulcerating sores; but in both cases it is uncertain in its effects, and often hurtful if persevered in for any length of time. It has also been employed in some spasmodic affections, in tetanus, and chorea, but here its superiority to many other remedies is very equivocal. This only admissible form for internal exhibition is the *liquor arsenicalis* of the Pharmacopœia, or some analogous *solution*; no attempt should ever be made to administer it in substance, and it should be discontinued unless some decided advantage follow the first few doses. Of the *liquor arsenicalis* each fluid ounce contains 4 grains of white arsenic; the fluid drachm, therefore, contains half a grain; but of this, more than a fourth part, or one-eighth of a grain, should not be given as an incipient dose. It is best administered in some simple aromatic water, as—

R *Liquoris Arsenicalis* ℥xv.

*Aquæ Cinnam.*

——— *Distillatæ* āā f̄ss.

M. fiat haustus quartâ quâque horâ sumendus.

It is said that the Indians are in the habit of administering arsenic in large doses, after the bites of venomous animals; and it would appear from Mr. Ireland's observations, that it is sometimes an effective remedy<sup>1</sup>.

The arsenical solutions, ointments, and plasters, which have been advised for external use, should on all accounts be employed with the utmost circumspection; violent local irritation and inflammation sometimes follow the first application; and sometimes the arsenic is absorbed, and the patient's health impaired, by their frequent or long-continued use.

Upon the whole, I must again press upon the attention of those whom it concerns, the necessity of limiting the sale and use of arsenic; some effective restriction or prohibition

<sup>1</sup> Med. Chir. Trans. ii. 393.



should be laid upon its sale ; and then the fatal effects so continually resulting from its improper employment would probably be of infinitely rarer occurrence.

It may now be right to add a few words respecting the nature and properties of white arsenic and of the means of detecting it by tests and re-agents. In relation to these, however, I shall be very brief, for arsenic is very easily recognised, even when in very small quantities; and the refined minutiae of analysis which are recommended and dwelt upon by some medical writers are in all cases liable to equivocal results, and too often mislead the unskilful and inexperienced. I allude to those cases where no arsenic in substance has anywhere been discovered, and where it is advised to digest the coats of the stomach and the intestines, and the contents found in them, in water, in alkaline solutions, &c. for the purpose of detecting traces of the poison.

What is called in commerce *white arsenic* is a brittle white substance, more or less translucent, and generally met with in cakes or their fragments, retaining the shape of the vessel in which the substance has been sublimed : sometimes it has a yellow or reddish tinge, derived from iron, sulphur, and other impurities ; hence the direction in the Pharmacopœia for its resublimation, by which it is often obtained in vitreous transparent cakes, which, however, soon grow opaque and crumble. Its specific gravity is 3.72. Sometimes it is sold in powder, and is then said to be liable to adulteration with chalk and gypsum, a fraud easily detected by the imperfect volatility of the powder thus adulterated. The temperature at which this substance rises in vapour is between 380° and 400°, and, as has been shown by Dr. Paris, it exhales no odour when perfectly free from metallic arsenic, though, if heated in the flame of a candle, or in contact with almost any other inflammable matter, it smells strongly of garlic in consequence of its partial reduction. The solubility of white arsenic in water has not been very accurately determined, but I believe Klaproth's statement not far from correct. He found that 1000 grains of water at 60° left for 24 hours upon a portion of arsenic, with which it was often agitated, took up  $2\frac{1}{2}$  grains ; 1000 grains of water boiled upon arsenic dissolved  $77\frac{3}{4}$  grains, and this solution, after standing three days, deposited a portion of its contents in the form of crystals, but retained 30 grains in permanent solution ; a fact which, as Dr. Paris justly observes, shows the importance of employing boiling water in every chemical examination of substances supposed to contain arsenic. White arsenic is sparingly soluble in alcohol, in ether, and in fixed and volatile oils. Its

aqueous solution has a peculiarly nauseous, acrid, and astringent taste, which, when once experienced, will scarcely be forgotten; it reddens some vegetable blues, such, for instance as litmus; but it renders the blue of violets and of some other flowers, green. It dissolves in the alkalies, and forms compounds with the metallic oxides generally; hence the term, *arsenious acid* applied to it. When exposed with charcoal, to heat under pressure, or when combined with potassa and heated with charcoal, as in the case of fusing it in a glass tube with black flux, it is decomposed, and a brilliant steel-grey sublimate of metallic arsenic is obtained.

Arsenious acid or white arsenic consists of one proportional of arsenic combined with one and a half of oxygen, or

|         |       |       |       |       |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Arsenic | ..... | 38    | ..... | 76    |
| Oxygen  | ....  | 12    | ..... | 24    |
|         |       | <hr/> |       | <hr/> |
|         |       | 50    |       | 100   |

If nitric acid be repeatedly distilled off white arsenic, it acquires an additional proportion of oxygen, and is converted into *arsenic acid*, a substance very soluble in water, very sour, and saturating the alkalies and metallic oxides, so as to produce distinct neutral salts, some of which, especially the binarsenate of potassa, have been proposed for medical use; but the arsenite of potassa (liquor arsenicalis) is equally effectual, and we should studiously avoid multiplying these pernicious compounds. Arsenic acid is virulently poisonous. It consists of one proportional of arsenic and two and a half of oxygen, or

|         |      |       |       |       |
|---------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Arsenic | .... | 38    | ..... | 65.5  |
| Oxygen  | ...  | 20    | ..... | 34.5  |
|         |      | <hr/> |       | <hr/> |
|         |      | 58    |       | 100   |

There now remain for discussion three important points in the pharmaceutical history of white arsenic, namely—the chemical means of detecting its presence by tests or re-agents; the symptoms which it produces when taken in mischievous quantity; and the method of treatment which such cases require.

I have already remarked that arsenic, even in very minute quantity, is not difficult of discovery. The suspected substance should be boiled in as small a portion of distilled water as convenient, the solution filtered, and a portion of it put into three test tubes, *a*, *b*, and *c*. To *a* add a drop or two of solution of potassa, and then a similar quantity of solution of sulphate of copper; an *apple-green* precipitate indicates arsenic; if the precipitate be sky-blue, no arsenic is present.



To the liquid *b* add a drop of solution of ammonia, and then the same quantity of nitrate of silver; if white arsenic be present, a yellow precipitate is formed; if not, there is no change, or only a white cloudiness<sup>1</sup>.

To *c* add a drop or two of liquid potassa, evaporate to dryness, and having added a morsel of wax, heat the residue to redness. Metallic arsenic will sublime, and the garlic smell will be very perceptible upon opening the lower end of the tube and holding it inclined, so that a current of air may pass through it.

The precipitates from *a* and *b*, heated with a little wax, should give similar indications of metallic arsenic.

Of the above tests, the first was contrived by Scheele, and the second by Mr. Hume; and, with the corroboration afforded by the third method, they are effectual and satisfactory.

In examining the contents of the stomach of persons who have taken arsenic, we should always look for the poison in substance; but unless this be done immediately, it will very rarely be found: and the whole of the arsenic may be vomited or purged off, in the first instance, and the symptoms continue violent, though nothing can be detected in the stomach and bowels. It is in these cases that we must be on our guard against the effect of bile or other colouring substances, as affecting the copper test, and against that of muriatic and phosphoric salts, upon solution of silver; and in all such cases we must not be satisfied of the presence of arsenic, till it has been unequivocally ascertained by the third test, namely, that of the *allicaceous sublimate*: this renders all other precautions unnecessary.

The symptoms by which arsenic manifests itself upon the living system are numerous, complicated, and often not very determinate. Spasmodic pains in the stomach and bowels, attended by a sense of heat in the mouth and of constriction in the œsophagus, by an increased flow of saliva, a sense of

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<sup>1</sup> Another mode of applying this test, suggested also by Mr. Hume, consists in adding to the aqueous solution of white arsenic a drop or two of an ammonio-nitrate of silver, formed by dropping liquid ammonia into a solution of one part of nitrate of silver in ten of water, until the precipitate first formed is almost entirely redissolved by agitation. It is necessary to be a little cautious in this instance, lest fulminating silver should be formed.

Dr. Paris recommends the application of this test upon writing paper, instead of glasses: "drop the suspected fluid on a piece of white paper, making with it a broad line; along this line a stick of lunar caustic is to be drawn several times successively, when a streak is produced of a colour resembling that known under the name of *Indian yellow*." This yellow remains for some time permanent, but a somewhat similar appearance results, in the first instance, from the presence of an alkaline phosphate; here, however, the yellow presently changes into a dirty green and black.

tightness about the integuments of the head and of the eyelids, are among the earliest of the commonly occurring symptoms, and, together with inflamed tunica conjunctiva, and itching of the face and neck, and nausea, are not unfrequently witnessed where arsenic is incautiously exhibiting as a medicine. To these there succeed incessant vomiting and purging, attended by excruciating pain of almost every part of the body; but of the stomach, bowels, and head, especially: the pulse, at first full, hard, and frequent, sinks and becomes irregularly feeble; and clamminess of the skin, cold sweats, purple spots, and convulsions, precede death: or, if the patient escape this catastrophe, hectic fever, paralysis, and mental and bodily debility attend him for the remainder of his days. It is commonly said that, in these cases, there is a remarkable proneness to putrefaction in the dead body, but this is no constant phenomenon.

The examination of the body after death does not throw much light upon the mode in which arsenic destroys; but this has been, to a certain extent, determined by physiological experiments. The stomach and bowels exhibit more or less inflammatory appearances, but the inflammation is often so slight, as to show that death cannot have arisen from that cause: and as the pharynx and œsophagus are free from it, and, moreover, as it has also been remarked in animals killed by applying arsenic to a wound, it is probable that such visceral inflammation is not the direct consequence of the actual contact of the poison. Indeed, upon this subject Mr. Brodie observes<sup>1</sup>, that the inflammation of the stomach was commonly more violent and more immediate than when the poison was administered internally; and that it preceded any appearance of inflammation of the wound. Hence the inflammatory appearances are to be considered as symptoms of the action of the poison upon the system; perhaps of its presence in the blood. From Mr. Brodie's experiments we may conclude, that the symptoms produced by arsenic, so far from being referable to its effects upon the coats of the stomach and intestines, are to be ascribed to some peculiar and immediate influence of the poison upon the nervous system and heart, by which death is produced. Sometimes morbid affections of the heart predominate; at others those of the brain; and the symptoms vary accordingly: yet, if we except the occasional fluidity of the blood in the heart and vessels, the morbid appearances after death are confined to the stomach and bowels. The principal vessels leading to the stomach and intestines

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<sup>1</sup> Phil. Trans. 1812, p. 210.



are turgid with blood, but the inflammation is usually confined to the mucous membrane of these viscera, which becomes fluid and pulpy, and easily separates from the cellular coat, which retains its natural aspect. But, although the affection of the stomach and intestines from arsenic is not ordinarily the cause of death, it may become so, provided the animal survive those effects which the poison produced upon the organs more essential to life.

Lastly, it may be asked how far there are any of the appearances after death, in cases of poison by arsenic, sufficiently unequivocal to enable us to decide upon the cause of death, independently of all more direct evidence. To this we must reply in the negative; for although the inflammation of the stomach and intestines, in such cases, is peculiarly extensive, and does not affect the pharynx and œsophagus, yet such appearances alone cannot be considered as exclusively belonging to the effects of arsenic. Moreover, it has been justly observed by Mr. Brodie<sup>1</sup>, that although, when arsenic has been taken in substance, small particles of it are frequently found in the mucus or extravasated blood, yet, where this is not the case, "I have never known in an animal that was capable of vomiting, that arsenic could be detected in the contents of the stomach after death, though examined by the most accurate chemical tests." In such cases arsenic has also been sought for in the blood and in the urine, but has never been detected.

The medical treatment which should be adopted for the relief or cure of persons poisoned by arsenic may be summed up in a few words. The vomiting excited by the poison should be encouraged by a dose or two of a solution of sulphate of zinc, in preference to ipecacuanha, and copious draughts of mucilaginous liquors, such as barley-water and gruel. The bowels should be emptied by the least irritating means, as by castor oil, or a mixture of castor and olive oil. Opium, camphor, and ether, may be resorted to, to quiet the nervous irritability; and ammonia, in large doses, has proved of service in stimulating the heart, where its action has been irregular and feeble. But we must recollect the inflammatory action of the stomach and bowels with which we still have to contend, and consequently the stimulating system must give way as soon as may be to a cooling regimen, mild aperients, bleeding, and the usual remedies and treatment. The debility, paralytic affections, and generally broken-down health, are afterwards to be encountered by tonics, sea-bathing, warm and cold, nervous stimulants, and a strict attention to diet, which commonly

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<sup>1</sup> Ph. Tr. 1812, p. 217.

should be nutritive, but light: milk and farinaceous food, in preference to animal diet. That persons may recover, after having swallowed a very large quantity of arsenic, has been shown by Dr. Roget<sup>1</sup>, to whose treatment and remarks I refer the reader.

Officinal Preparation.—*Liquor Arsenicalis*.

ASARI FOLIA—*Asarabacca Leaves—the Leaves of the Asarum Europæum*<sup>2</sup>.—This plant is a native of England, flowering in May. The root is perennial, strong, divided, and fibrous. The leaves rise immediately from the root, growing in pairs: they are kidney-shaped, large, of a deep green, and stand on long footstalks; the flowers are dingy purple, large, bell-shaped, and placed singly upon short peduncles at the base of the footstalks; the calyx supplies the place of a corolla, and is large, bell-shaped, divided at the mouth into three or four pointed segments, which are of a brownish colour, but greenish towards the base. The filaments are twelve, about half the length of the calyx, and furnished with oblong anthers which are attached to the sides of the filaments: from the germen arises a simple style, crowned with a stigma, divided into six radiated reflected parts; the capsule is leathery, and divided into six cells, which contain several small oblong seeds. The leaves, when dried with little heat, and not kept too long, retain much of their acrimony; they enter into the composition of the *pulvis asari compositus*, which, applied to the nostrils after the manner of snuff, considerably augments the nasal discharge, and has been recommended in ophthalmia and head-ach, under the name of *herb snuff*. Emetic and cathartic effects follow the internal use of asarabacca leaves, but they are limited in medicine to the former application.

Officinal Preparation.—*Pulvis Asari compos.*

ASSAFŒTIDÆ GUMMI RESINA—*Assafœtida*. This gum resin is obtained from the root of the *Ferula assafœtida*<sup>3</sup>, which, when fully grown, is of a large size, and abounds in milky juice: another species, the *Ferula Persica*, is also sometimes resorted to. The root of the *Ferula assafœtida* is perennial, tapering, and, when fully grown, of the size of a man's leg, and covered with a blackish bark. Its interior is fleshy, white, and juicy. The stem is round, smooth, and striated, rising erect to the height of nine feet, and about seven inches in circumference at the base, surrounded with six or seven radical leaves, nearly two feet long, bipinnate with alternate pinnules, smooth, sinu-

<sup>1</sup> Med. Chir. Trans. ii. 136.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 11. Ord. 1. Dodecandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Sarmenaceæ, Linn. Aristolochiæ, Juss.

<sup>3</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Umbellatæ.



ated, lobed, or lanceolate, of a deep-green colour, and foetid odour. The flowers are in planoconvex, terminal, compound umbels: the seed flat, oval, foliaceous, of a reddish-brown colour, rough, with three longitudinal lines; they have an alliaceous odour, and a sharp bitter flavour.

The *Ferula assafœtida* is a native of the south of Persia, and is said to afford the best juice when about four years old. When the leaves and stem decay, they are cut off at the root, and the exudation that takes place at the section being scraped away, a fresh section is made, and so on, till the root has yielded its entire produce. In its recent state it is white and semi-fluid, but by exposure to the sun it gradually hardens, and assumes a reddish colour.

The best assafœtida is imported in boxes or casks; and we find it in trade in large lumps, made up of irregular agglutinated masses, of a tough consistence, and motley appearance, from the mixture of white drops or tears with others of a violet, red, and brown tint. An inferior kind is full of sand, very fetid, and said to be a compound of garlic, sagapenum, turpentine, and a little real assafœtida.

Assafœtida is stated by pharmaceutical chemists to contain more gum than resin, and to afford about 10 per cent. of highly odorous, volatile oil, on distillation with water; so that it deteriorates considerably when kept for a long time. Its taste is acrid, and strongly that of garlic. Digested in proof-spirit, it furnishes the *tinctura assafœtidæ*; and triturated with water, in the proportion of 2 drachms to 8 ounces, the *mistura assafœtidæ* of the Pharmacopœia: to this a little mucilage of gum arabic should be added, to prolong the suspension of the resin.

Brandes, who has analysed assafœtida, states its composition as follows:—

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Volatile oil .....  | 4·2  |
| Bitter resin soluble in ether.....  | 47·2 |
| Tasteless resin insoluble in ether .....  | 1·6  |
| Extractive .....  | 1·0  |
| Gum, with traces of malate, acetate, sulphate, and phosphate of potassa and lime..... | 19·4 |
| Bassorin .....  | 6·4  |
| Sulphate of potassa.....  | 6·2  |
| Malate of lime.....   | 0·4  |
| Carbonate of lime .....   | 3·5  |
| Oxide of iron and alumina .....   | 0·4  |
| Trace of phosphorus .....   | 0·4  |
| Sand and impurities .....   | 4·6  |
| Water.....  | 6·0  |

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101·3

The principal medical uses of assafœtida are, as a stimulant and antispasmodic in hysterical and nervous diseases and spasmodic cough; as an expectorant in asthma; and as a carminative in flatulent cholic. It has also, in common with garlic, been much extolled as an anthelmintic. It may be considered as standing foremost, in point of efficacy, among the fetid gum resins; but its strong smell is much against its general use. The largest dose is about 20 grains; it is most conveniently administered in pills, and commonly in 5 grain doses, combined, if necessary, with expectorants, in coughs; and with chalybeates and aloetics in hysteria and chlorosis. The following formula will sometimes allay obstinate attacks of *spasmodic* cough, and has been found useful in whooping cough:—

R Assafœtidæ ʒss.  
Liquoris Ammon. Acet.  
Aquæ Pulegii āā fʒij.  
M. cap. cochleare unum vel duo pro dosi.

The following is a good fetid anti-hysterical, or nervous mixture; and it is curious that these remedies are not unfrequently effectual in direct proportion to their bad odour:—

R Misturæ Camphoræ fʒij.  
—— Assafœtidæ fʒij.  
Tinct. Valerianæ,  
Spiritus Ammoniac Compos.  
—— Etheris Compos. āā fʒij.

M. fiat mistura, cujus sumantur cochlear. duo ampla subinde.

For the relief of cholic of the lower bowels, the following glyster may be administered:—

R Assafœtidæ ʒij.  
Decocti Avenæ fʒx. Misce.

Officinal Preparations.—*Mistura Assafœtidæ. Tinctura Assafœtidæ. Spiritus Ammoniacæ fetidus. Pilulæ Galbani comp.*

AVENÆ SEMINA—*The decorticated Seeds of the Avena Sativa*<sup>1</sup>, or common Oat, generally called Grits. It is not known whence the oat was first imported into Europe: its root is fibrous, and the straw rises about two to three feet high: the inflorescence is a loose panicle, with the subdivisions on long pendulous peduncles. The glumes of the calyx are two, marked by lines, pointed, uneven, and larger than the flower. In each calyx there are commonly two flowers and seeds; they are alternate; conical; the smaller one is awnless; the larger one puts forth a strong two-coloured bent awn from the middle of the back: both seeds are fertile.

The value and uses of gruel, as an article in the diet of

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 3. Ord. 2. Triandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Gramina.



invalids, are too well known to require panegyric. Oats contain about 74 per cent. of nutritive matter, 64 of which may be called starch, and the remainder gluten, with a small proportion of sugar. For children brought up, as it is called, by hand, equal parts of gruel and cow's milk form the best substitute for the food which nature intended for them; but the greatest attention should be paid to the freshness both of the milk and gruel: in warm weather, or in a warm room, the latter becomes acescent in 12 hours, and will then invariably be mischievous, if not dangerous; the cleanliness of the vessels in which the food is kept and prepared, must also be most strictly looked after; for it often happens that the bowel complaints, and other disorders to which children under such circumstances are liable, arise from inattention to these apparent trifles.

Dr. Kitchener's receipt to make gruel is as follows:—"Ask those who are to eat it if they like it thick or thin; if the latter, mix well together, by degrees, in a pint basin *one* tablespoonful of oatmeal with three of cold water; if the former, use two spoonful. Have ready in a stewpan a pint of boiling-water; pour this by degrees to the oatmeal you have mixed, return it into the stewpan, set it on the fire, and let it boil for five minutes, stirring it all the time to prevent the oatmeal from burning at the bottom of the stewpan—skim, and strain it through a hair sieve.

"To convert this into *caudle* add a little ale, wine, or brandy, with sugar, and if the bowels are disordered, a little nutmeg or ginger grated.

"Plain gruel is one of the best breakfasts and suppers that we can recommend to the rational epicure—is the most comfortable soother of an irritable stomach that we know—and particularly acceptable to it after a hard day's work of intemperate feasting, when the addition of an ounce of butter, and a teaspoonful of Epsom salt, will give it an aperient quality, which will assist the principal viscera to get rid of their burden."

AURANTII BACCÆ and AURANTII CORTEX—*The Fruit and the external Rind of the Fruit of the Citrus Aurantium*<sup>1</sup>, or *Seville Orange*. This beautiful and valuable tree is a native of India, but has long been cultivated in the warmer parts of Europe, and will ripen its fruit in our conservatories. We chiefly derive our supplies of oranges from Spain and Portugal.

The orange tree rises to the height of several feet, and sends

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 18. Ord. 3. Polyadelphia Icosandria. Nat. Ord. Pomaceæ, Linn. Aurantiæ, Juss.

off many branches covered with a grey bark; the leaves are elliptical, pointed, smooth, entire, of a shining green colour, and stand upon strong winged footstalks. The flowers appear during the whole summer, and are large, white, and arise from the smaller branches upon simple and branched peduncles: the calyx is saucer-shaped, and cut at the brim into five small pointed teeth; the petals are five, oblong, white, concave, and beset with small glands: the filaments are about twenty, united at the base in three or more distinct portions, and furnished with yellow anthers, placed vertically: the germen is roundish, supporting a cylindrical style, terminated by a globular stigma. As far as the fruit is concerned, the China, or sweet orange is to be preferred, but the rind of the Seville orange is most bitter and aromatic. It is a very useful stomachic, and as such is added to a variety of bitter and aromatic infusions. It should be thin, bright-coloured, free from the white part, and from mouldiness. The unripe fruit, or berries of the orange tree, commonly called *Curaçoa oranges*, are bitter and aromatic; infused in brandy, they impart flavour to the celebrated Dutch liqueur called *Curaçoa*. Water distilled off orange flowers is a very agreeable perfume; the essential oil is less pleasant; it is brought from Italy under the name of *Oleum neroli*.

Official Preparations.—*Infusum Aurantii compositum*. *Tinctura Aurantii*. *Syrupus Aurantii*. *Confectio Aurantii*.

**BALSAMUM PERUVIANUM**—*The Balsam of the Myroxylon Peruiferum*<sup>1</sup>—*Peruvian Balsam*.—The tree which affords this balsam grows in the warmest parts of South America, blossoming in August, September, and October; it has a smooth trunk, covered with a grey coarse bark, and abounds in resin. The branches are nearly horizontal, the leaves alternate, and abruptly pinnate. The leaflets in two pairs, nearly opposite, petiolate, ovato-lanceolate, with the apex lengthened and somewhat blunt and emarginate, entire, shining, veined, and very smooth. The midrib, which runs through the whole length of the under surface of the leaf, is raised and pubescent; the common petiole is round and pubescent. The flowers are scattered, on axillary, erect racemes, longer than the leaves. The peduncles are roundish and pubescent; each supported by a small, erect, ovate, concave bracte, appearing to the naked eye like a tubercle: the pedicles erect. The calyx is bell-shaped, dark-green, divided into five small, nearly equal teeth, but with one of them so far separated as to be found

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 10. Ord. 1. Decandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Lomentaceæ, Linn. Leguminosæ, Juss.



under the germen. The corolla consists of five white petals : four narrow, equal, lanceolate, and larger than the calyx ; the fifth reflex, broad, and double the size of the others. The stamens are ten, inclining, and inserted into the calyx ; bearing elongated, sharp-pointed, sulcated anthers. The germen is oblong, pedicillated, inclining ; the style short, subulate, and crooked, crowned with a simple stigma. The seed-vessel is a straw-coloured, club-shaped, somewhat curved, pendulous legume, globular near the top, and terminated by the curved style. It contains, in a cell in the curved part, one seed only, which is crescent-shaped, and projects from the cell. The substance of the leaves is full of translucent, linear points, like the leaf of the orange-tree.—THOMSON, L.D.

The Peruvian balsam is obtained by boiling the twigs in water : it has a deep brown colour, considerable consistency, a fragrant aromatic smell, and a pungent bitterish flavour. When distilled, it affords benzoic acid, and a resinous matter remains in the retort. Balsam of Peru has been recommended in doses of ʒss. to ʒj. as a stimulant in chronic rheumatism, and it appears to have been effectual in some obstinate cases. In chronic asthma and old dry coughs it is said to have proved a serviceable expectorant. The best form for its administration is the following :—

R Balsami Peruviani ʒss.  
 Mucilaginis Acaciæ ʒij. tere simul, et adde  
 Aquæ Cinnamomi  
 ——— Distillatæ āā fʒss.

M. fiat haustus ter die sumendus.

Mixed with twice its weight of spermaceti ointment, and applied to indolent ulcers, it will sometimes improve and cleanse them. ʒj. of *unguentum cetacei*, made with almond instead of olive oil, and 15 drops of Peruvian balsam, well mixed by trituration, form an elegant lip-salve. Mr. Thomson observes that a mixture composed of ʒj. of the balsam and ʒiij. of ox-gall, is useful when dropped into the ear every day, after syringing with solution of soap, in fetid discharges from that organ.

Genuine Peruvian balsam is nearly entirely soluble in pure alcohol, leaving a small portion of brown extractive. According to Stoltze, 100 parts of dark-coloured Peruvian balsam yield—

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Fixed oil.....                | 69·0 |
| Soluble brown resin .....     | 20·7 |
| Difficultly soluble resin ... | 2·4  |
| Benzoic acid.....             | 6·4  |
| Extractive matter .....       | 0·6  |
| Loss.....                     | 0·9  |

---

100..

The *spontaneous* exudation of the *M. Peruiferum* is pale-coloured, and of a more purely balsamic odour; it is sometimes called *white Peruvian*, or *Indian Balsam*, or *Opobalsamum*. From Tromsdorff's analysis of this variety, it closely resembles Tolu balsam.

**BALSAMUM TOLUTANUM**—*Tolu Balsam*.—This has generally been considered as the produce of a South American tree (the *Toluiifera balsamum*), but from a more recent inquiry into the subject it appears that it is obtained by exudation from the *Myroxylon Peruiferum*—that it flows freely from incisions in its bark, and is collected in mats and calabashes, where it hardens, and is thus brought to this country.

In very cold weather Tolu balsam is brittle, but when kneaded a little in the warm hand it becomes soft and tenacious. It has an agreeable balsamic smell and taste; when heated, it fuses, inflames, and disperses a very pleasant benzoic odour. Distilled with water, it yields a little volatile oil and about 10 or 12 per cent. of benzoic acid, and 80 to 90 of resin.

Tolu balsam is placed by systematic writers on the *Materia Medica* among the stimulating expectorants, and as such has sometimes been employed in dry chronic coughs, unattended by inflammatory action, in doses of from 5 to 20 grains. The only use now made of Tolu balsam is to impart a pleasant flavour to syrup and lozenges. It forms an ingredient in the *tinctura benzoini compositi* of the *Pharmacopœia*, which is merely a slight modification of the once celebrated *Friar's Balsam*.

Official Preparations.—*Syrupus Tolutanus*. *Tinct. Benz. comp.*

**BELLADONNÆ FOLIA**—*The Leaves of the Atropa Belladonna*<sup>1</sup>, or *Deadly Nightshade*.—This plant is indigenous, growing in shady places, flowering in June and July, and ripening its berries in September. It has a thick whitish root, which is perennial, and sends forth strong, branched, annual, purple stems, from 3 to 5 feet high. The leaves are of unequal size, entire, oval, pointed, and stand in pairs upon short footstalks. The flowers are of a brownish-purple colour, large, pendent, bell-shaped, furrowed, and the limb cut into 5 segments. The whole plant is covered with down. The leaves of this plant have a nauseous bitterish taste, and are intensely poisonous. In an overdose they produce delirious wandering of the mind and stupor, dilatation of the pupil, convulsions, and death; and, when even very carefully administered in the form of powder or of extract, in doses commencing with 1

<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 5. *Ord.* 1. Pentandria Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Luridæ, *Linn.* Solanaceæ, *Juss.*



grain, alarming symptoms not unfrequently succeed, such as head-ach, vertigo, imperfect vision, and dilated pupil; these consequences oblige us immediately to desist from its use. Upon the whole, there appears to be so much doubt of any decided benefit having been obtained by the internal use of belladonna, whilst its occasional mischievous influence is so sudden and unmanageable, that there must be much difference of opinion as to the propriety of its administration. As an external application, belladonna may be more safely employed, but even then it requires attention and management. A plaster composed of equal parts of extract of belladonna and common plaster, or an ointment consisting of equal weights of lard and of the powder of the recently dried leaves, is often of effectual service in the relief of local pains arising from chronic disease or rheumatism. The ointment, rubbed upon the perinæum, alleviates chordee; and the powdered leaves, sprinkled upon the part, or an infusion of them employed as fomentation, have proved effective in allaying the pain of unhealthy sores. Half a drachm of the dried leaves to half a pint of water furnish an infusion which, when dropped into the eye, causes a dilatation of the pupil that endures for many hours; a circumstance of which oculists sometimes avail themselves, as facilitating the operation for the depression of cataract; and which, by admitting the rays of light more extensively upon the retina, enables persons suffering from incipient cataract to enjoy a considerable temporary improvement of vision.

It sometimes happens that ignorant persons and children are poisoned by inadvertently eating the berries of nightshade; and where this is the case, it is generally fatal, for the effect upon the stomach is such as often to render it insensible to emetics. Sulphate of zinc or of copper should however be tried; brisk purges should be administered; and it is said that vinegar, and vegetable acids generally, are useful auxiliaries in promoting the cure.

The virulent activity of belladonna appears to depend upon the presence of a salifiable principle, to which its discoverer, M. Brandes, has given the name of *atropia*, and which forms distinct salts with the acids. It may be obtained by boiling the leaves in a very dilute sulphuric acid, filtering the decoction, and supersaturating it with potassa, which occasions a crystalline precipitate of impure atropia. It may be rendered pure and white by repeatedly dissolving it in dilute sulphuric acid, and precipitating by potassa. "I once," says M. Brandes, "tasted a small quantity of sulphate of atropia; the taste was not bitter, but merely saline; but there soon followed violent

headach, shaking of the limbs, alternate sensations of heat and cold, oppression of the chest, difficulty of breathing, and diminished force of circulation. The violence of these symptoms ceased in half an hour."

100 parts of the plant yield, according to Brandes,

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Malate of atropia .....                                 | 1·51  |
| Green resin .....                                       | 5·84  |
| Wax .....   | 0·70  |
| Phyteumacolla <sup>1</sup> .....                        | 6·90  |
| Pseudotoxin <sup>1</sup> , with atropia and salts ..... | 16·05 |
| Albumen soluble .....                                   | 70    |
| ——indurated .....                                       | 6·00  |
| Gum .....   | 8·33  |
| Starch .....  | 1·25  |
| Salts of ammonia, potassa, lime, and magnesia ...       | 7·47  |
| Woody fibre .....                                       | 13·70 |
| Water .....   | 25·50 |
| Loss .....  | 2·05  |
|   | <hr/> |
|   | 100   |

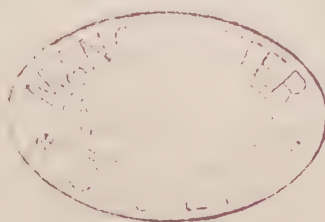
Official Preparation.—*Extractum Belladonnæ*.

**BENZOINUM**—*Benzoin*—A substance obtained by incisions of the bark of the *Styrax benzoe*<sup>2</sup>, a tall tree, native in Sumatra. It sends off many branches covered with a rough grey bark; the leaves are oblong, entire, veined, pointed, smooth on the upper side, and downy on the under; they stand alternately upon short footstalks, which are round, scored, and downy; the flowers are produced in bunches, and usually hang all on the same side upon short slender pedicles; the racemi are nearly of the length of the leaves, branched, downy, and arise from the axillæ of the leaves; the calyx is short, bell-shaped, downy, and divided at the extremity into 5 obscure imperfect teeth; the corolla is monopetalous, externally ash-coloured, downy, and cut into 5 obtuse parallel segments, growing close together; the filaments are 10, of the length of the calyx, adhering at the base, bearded towards the top, forming a circle upon the receptacle in which they are inserted, and crowned with linear erect anthers; the germen is oval, downy, and placed above the insertion of the corolla; the style is filiform, longer than the stamina, and terminated with a simple stigma; the fruit is similar to that of the *Styrax officinale*.

Benzoin is brought to Europe in large masses of an amyg-

<sup>1</sup> Under these terms Brandes seems to mean modifications of gum, resembling cerasin or bassorine.

<sup>2</sup> *Cl.* 10. *Ord.* 1. Decandria Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Bicornes, *Linn.* Guaiacinae, *Juss.*





daloidal appearance: its colour is pale brown, with white spots. It is brittle, of a resinous aspect and fracture, very fragrant when warmed, and affording upon the further application of heat, a sublimate of benzoic acid. A very inferior article is also found in the market, indistinctly mottled, of a darker colour, and abounding in various impurities: it is good for nothing. Bucholz obtained from 100 parts of benzoin—

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Resin.....                       | 83·3      |
| Matter like Peruvian balsam..... | 1·7       |
| Benzoic acid.....                | 12·5      |
| Aromatic extractive matter.....  | 0·5       |
| Wood and impurities.....         | 2·0       |
|                                  | <hr/> 100 |

Stoltze analysed white and brown benzoin, with the following results:—

|                                      | White.    | Brown.    |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Yellow resin; soluble in ether.....  | 79·83.... | 8·80      |
| Brown resin, insoluble in ether..... | 0·25....  | 69·73     |
| Benzoic acid.....                    | 19·80.... | 19·70     |
| Extractive matter.....               | 0·00....  | 0·15      |
| Impurities.....                      | 0·00....  | 1·45      |
| Volatile oil and loss.....           | 0·12....  | 0·17      |
|                                      | <hr/> 100 | <hr/> 100 |

By the destructive distillation of benzoin in a glass retort gradually raised to a red heat, I obtained—

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Benzoic acid.....                         | 9·0       |
| Acidulous water.....                      | 5·5       |
| Butyraceous empyreumatic oil.....         | 60·0      |
| Charcoal.....                             | 22·0      |
| Carburetted hydrogen and carbonic acid .. | 3·5       |
|   | <hr/> 100 |

The uses of benzoin are now chiefly limited to the production of benzoic acid; it forms an ingredient in some articles of perfumery, and in fumigating powders and pastiles.

Official Preparations. *Tinct. Benzoini compos. Acid. Benzoinum.*

**BISMUTHUM—Bismuth.**—This is a brittle metal, of a foliated texture, and having a reddish-yellow tint. It fuses at about  $460^{\circ}$ : its specific gravity is 9·5. It frequently contains a portion of arsenic, but in the preparation of the subnitrate of bismuth, the only compound used in pharmacy, that pernicious metal is separated. Old pharmaceutical writers describe bismuth under the names of *tin-glass* and *marcasite*. The metal itself is not used medicinally.

Official Preparation. *Bismuthi Subnitratis.*

**BISTORTA**—*The Root of the Polygonum Bistorta*<sup>1</sup>, or *greater Bistort*.—This plant is a native of Britain, growing in moist meadows, and flowering in May and September. The root is about the thickness of a finger, perennial, crooked, rugose, firm, of a reddish colour, covered with a brown rind, and furnished with numerous small fibres and creepers; the stalk is simple, bending, solid, round, smooth, swelled at the joints, enclosed by the sheaths of the stipulæ, and is a foot and a half or two feet in height; the radical leaves are ovalish, or rather heart-shaped, pointed, and stand upon long winged footstalks; the upper leaves embrace the stem, and are narrower and undulated; the flowers stand upon short footstalks, and terminate the stalk in an oblong close spike; the corolla is small, of tubular appearance, and divided into 5 oval obtuse segments, of a reddish-white colour, and at the base supplied with several nectarious glands. The floral leaves are membranous, withered, and each encloses 2 flowers; the filaments are tapering, white, longer than the corolla, and the anthers are purple; the styles are 3, about the length of the stamina; the stigmata are small and round; the germen is triangular, of a red colour, and the seeds are brown and polished.

The root of bistort is a powerful astringent, sometimes used in combination with aromatics in the cure of intermittent fevers. It is now very rarely employed.

**CAJUPUTI OLEUM**—*Cajuput Oil*, obtained by distillation from the leaves of the *Melaleuca Cajuputi*<sup>2</sup>, a shrub abundant in Amboyna and part of Borneo, whence the essential oil is imported. It has a running root, and stem covered with whitish scaly bark. The leaves are alternate, on short petioles, about 3 inches long and half an inch broad, lanceolate, and somewhat galcated, fine nerved, of a pale-green colour, and fragrant; the flowers are white, sessile, in long subterminal spikes, and the bractæ minute and ovate; the calyx is tubular, 5-toothed, and half deciduous; the petals roundish and concave; the filaments are fixed within the tube of the calyx, and are long, with small ovate anthers; the germen is inferior, roundish, crowned with a simple slender style longer than the filaments, and becomes a 3-celled capsule containing many small, oblong, angular seeds.

The essential oil of cajuput generally has a greenish colour, arising, as it is said, from the copper flasks in which it is brought to Europe; but none of the samples which I have

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 8. Ord. 3. Octandria Trigynia. Nat. Ord. Holoraceæ, Linn. Polygoneæ, Juss.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 18. Ord. 3. Polyadelphia Icosandria. Nat. Ord. Hesperideæ, Linn. Myrti, Juss.



examined contain copper. When recent, it is nearly colourless. It is highly pungent and aromatic, its odour resembling that of camphor and cardamom seeds. It is extremely volatile, lighter than water, and readily and entirely soluble in alcohol, which is not the case if it be adulterated with oil of turpentine. It is powerfully stimulant and diaphoretic in doses of from 5 to 10 drops, and in the East has gained much celebrity in chronic rheumatism, spasmodic cholic, and certain paralytic and nervous affections calling for rapidly acting and diffusible stimuli. In these cases it is also applied externally as a liniment, either pure or diluted with olive oil. Put into an aching tooth, upon a piece of cotton, it quiets the pain as effectually as any other essential oil. It has been by some highly extolled in the treatment of Asiatic cholera.

**CALAMINA**—*Calamine*—*Impure Carbonate of Zinc*.—Several chemical varieties of ores of zinc are known under the name of calamine, or *lapis calaminaris*; they consist chiefly of carbonate of zinc, but are generally intimately mixed with variable portions of other ores and stony matter; so that, on account of this uncertainty, it seems doubtful whether calamine should be retained in the Pharmacopœia. That which we find in commerce is usually in buff-coloured or reddish-grey fragments, of an earthy aspect, and is directed in the Pharmacopœia to be prepared by calcination, and to be reduced to a very impalpable powder by the usual processes. Water, and more or less carbonic acid, are thus expelled by heat, the degree of which should have been more explicitly directed than we find it under the head "*Calamina preparata*" in the Pharmacopœia.

Calamine is only used externally, either as a digestive in the form of *Ceratum calaminæ*, or *Turner's cerate*,—or in powder, to sprinkle upon ulcerating surfaces: it keeps the sore clean by abstracting the secretion, very rarely irritates, and does not otherwise interfere with the healing process: hence it is often a useful application to venereal sores, keeping them cleanly, and not interfering with the influence of mercury upon their healing process.

**CALAMI RADIX**—*The Root of the Acorus calamus*<sup>1</sup>, or *Sweet-flag*—A plant which thrives abundantly in moist situations over great part of Europe and Asia. The root of this plant is perennial, crooked, fibrous, somewhat compressed, from an inch to half an inch thick, rugose, and of a spongy

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 6. Ord. 1. Hexandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Piperitæ, Linn. Arridex Juss.

external texture; its colour is yellowish-green; the leaves are long, sword-shaped, sheathing one another, and commonly undulated on one side; the flowers, which are produced on a conical spike at the edge of the leaf, are small and numerous; there is no calyx, the corolla consists of 6 small concave petals; the filaments are thick, somewhat longer than the petals, and furnished with double anthers; the germen is gibbous, oblong, without a style, and terminated by a pointed stigma; the capsule is oblong, triangular, and divided into 3 cells containing numerous oval seeds.

The odour of the dried root is agreeably aromatic, and its flavour pungent and warm. Its fracture is short and rough, and internally it is of pale buff colour. When too old it loses its virtue, and is apt to get worm-eaten. Most writers on the *Materia Medica* say that this root is less prescribed than it should be; but there are so many more agreeable and equally effectual aromatic tonics, that it is nevertheless rarely employed. The infusion, in the proportion of  $\mathfrak{z}\text{j}$ . of the bruised root to 1 pint of water, is the best form of administering it. By distilling the root with water, it affords less than 1 per cent. of essential oil, not very agreeable in its odour, but used in some articles of perfumery.

Tromsdorff obtained from 100 parts of the fresh root—

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Volatile oil .....                            | 0·1  |
| Soft resin .....                              | 2·3  |
| Extractive with a little muriate of potassa . | 3·3  |
| Gum, with phosphate of potassa.....           | 5·5  |
| Starch.....                                   | 1·6  |
| Woody fibre .....                             | 21·5 |
| Water .....                                   | 65·7 |

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100

**CALUMBÆ RADIX**—*Calumba, or Columba Root*, probably the root of the *Menispermum Palmatum*.—The root is imported into Europe from Mozambique in bags and cases. It is usually dried in slices, having a thick yellow bark, covered with an olive-coloured cuticle, and surrounding a browner and spongy central portion. It is almost always worm-eaten, but it should be selected as little so as possible, dense, and of a bright colour. It has a strong, bitter, and slightly pungent taste; and its aqueous infusion, which is the usual and best form of administering it, holds a considerable portion of mucilage, and is very prone to decomposition in a warm atmosphere; so that it should always be freshly prepared. It is said sometimes to be mixed with slices of briony root, which have been infused in quassia water and tinged with saffron.



From 100 parts of Calumba root Planché obtained—

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Yellow extractive matter..... | 13        |
| Starch.....                   | 33        |
| Mucilage.....                 | 9         |
| Animo-vegetable matter .....  | 6         |
| Woody fibre .....             | 39        |
| Trace of volatile oil .....   | —         |
|                               | <hr/> 100 |

Geiger observes that it deserves more accurate examination, as, according to Buchner, it appears to possess properties derived from the presence of menispermia (picrotoxia).

Calumba is a very good bitter, and perhaps more agreeable to delicate stomachs than most other medicines of this class, especially in the form of weak infusion, conjoined, if necessary, with aromatics, in dyspepsia, in diarrhoea, and in the after-treatment of cholera morbus. Alkalies, acids, and saline aperients may also be administered with it, and it is not blackened by solutions of iron. The following is a good formula where flatulency and heartburn are attending on a slightly gouty habit, with a red deposit in the urine :—

R Infus. Calumbæ fʒv.  
Tincturæ Calumbæ fʒj. }  
Ammoniæ Subcarbon. ʒss.

M. fiat mistura; sumantur cochl. iij. ampla mane et meridie.

Of the powdered root from 5 to 20 grains may be taken three times a day, and it may be conveniently formed into pills with a few drops of water only. Ten grains twice a day has been found efficacious in nervous headache.

R Seminum Carui contus.  
Calumbæ Rad. contus.  
Rhæi Rad. contus. āā ʒj.  
Aquæ ferventis fʒviiij. Macera per horas duas et cola.

R Liquoris Colati fʒiijss.  
Tinctur. Rhæi fʒj.  
Syrup. Cort. Aurant. fʒij. M.

From a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful of the above may be given, according to their age, to children who are troubled with diarrhoea occasioning debility during dentition; but care should be taken not to check such laxity of the bowels suddenly or unnecessarily, as it is often the comparatively harmless substitute of the more formidable evils that attend teething.

Officinal Preparations. *Tinctura Calumbæ. Infusum Calumbæ.*

CAMBOGIA—*The Gum Resin of the Garcinia Cambogia, or Stalagmitis Cambogiodes; Gamboge.*—This substance is chiefly imported from Ceylon, in cakes rolled up in flag-leaves,

and is much used as a yellow water-colour. In medical effect it ranks with the most drastic purges; but as it is apt to excite nausea and vomiting, and to gripe excessively, it is rarely used, except in very small doses along with other cathartics. According to Dr. Paris, it enters as an ingredient into many of the empirical compositions which are sold for the cure of tape-worms, in which indeed, combined with calomel, it is very effectual, but less certain and more drastic than a large dose of oil of turpentine.

From 4 to 6 grains of gamboge is usually a very operative dose, but the addition of a grain to other purgatives is often useful in sharpening their activity. A solution of gamboge in carbonate of potassa is said to be purgative and diuretic, and as such has been recommended in dropsical affections.

According to John, 100 parts of gamboge contain—

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Yellow resin..... | 89·0  |
| Gum .....         | 10·5  |
| Impurities.....   | 0·5   |
|                   | <hr/> |
|                   | 100   |

It yields on incineration traces of carbonate, phosphate, and muriate of potassa, and carbonate and phosphate of lime.

Officinal Preparation. *Pilulæ Gambogicæ compositæ*.

**CAMPHORA**—*Camphor*.—A substance obtained by distillation from the *Laurus Camphora*<sup>1</sup>, having the leading characters of a concrete volatile oil. The camphor laurel, a native of Japan, is a large branching tree, with a smooth bark: the leaves stand on long footstalks; they are lanceolate, entire, smooth, and ribbed: pale-green upon the upper, and glaucous on the lower surface. The flowers are small, white, pedicelated, terminating the common peduncles, which are long, naked, erect, and proceed from the axæ of the leaves: there is no calyx: the corolla consists of six small, ovate, concave, unequal petals, inclosing a tuberculated bristled nectary, surrounding the germen: the filaments are shorter than the corolla; anthers round: germen roundish: style simple, the length of the filaments; stigma obtuse.

Camphor is also found in several other plants, and much of the camphor brought to Europe is the produce of the *Driabalanops Aromatica*, a tree common in Sumatra and Borneo. When purified by sublimation, we find it in commerce in cakes weighing about 8lb each, sonorous when struck, white, translu-

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 9. Ord. 1. Enneandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Oleraceæ, Linn. Lauri, Juss.



cent, and somewhat tough in consistency, but admitting of reduction to powder by the aid of a few drops of spirit of wine. Its odour is strong and agreeable to most persons, its taste cooling, and at the same time aromatic and pungent.

It is very sparingly soluble in water, but copiously in alcohol, which takes up about its own weight. The aqueous solution has long been known in pharmacy under the name of *camphor julep*, of which a wine-glassful taken occasionally, is useful in nervous irritability, and it forms a good vehicle for other anodynes and sedatives. Camphor may also be administered in the form of a pill, or suspended in liquids by the aid of mucilage.

Much difference of sentiment exists as to the virtues of camphor, and by some it is undeservedly condemned as inefficacious. In small doses it acts as a sedative and diaphoretic, these effects being preceded by slight exhilaration; in doses, for instance, of from 1 to 3 grains. Persons who cannot procure rest except from large doses of opium will sometimes succeed by combining smaller doses with camphor.

Camphor produces little effect upon the pulse, except in large doses, when it softens it and renders it fuller. It is a useful adjunct to bark in typhoid diseases; to valerian, the fetid gums, volatile alkali, and ethereals, in hysteric and nervous complaints; and to antimonials, and other diaphoretics, in rheumatism and certain inflammatory disorders. The following formula may be used for the independent exhibition of camphor:—

R Camphoræ gr. iij. (ope alcoholis, in pulverem tritæ.)  
Mucilaginis Arabici f3j.  
Misturæ Amygdalæ f3jss.  
M. fiat haustus.

The following are Dr. Hooper's prescriptions for "Mistura Camphoræ fortior." They are excellent forms for its exhibition:—

R Camphoræ gr. xxv.  
Amygdalas dulces decorticas vj.  
Sacchari purificati 3iij.  
Optime contere, dein adde gradatim  
Aquæ Menthæ viridis f3vijss. ut fiat mistura: sit dosis  
cochlearia tria magna.

R Camphoræ gr. xxv.  
Spiritus rectificati ʒiv.  
Fiat terendo pulvis; dein adde  
Pulveris Acaciæ ʒiv.  
Syrupi Limonum f3ss.  
Aquæ Menthæ viridis f3vij. ut fiat emulsio; sit dosis  
cochlearia tria magna.

In cases of febrile action, where the object is to allay irritation, promote perspiration, and induce sleep, either of these mixtures may be resorted to.

I should consider 5 grains of camphor every four hours as a full dose; that is, as likely to produce all the advantages to be derived from the remedy; it has been given in doses of from 20 to 30 grains, and is then apt to produce vomiting, giddiness, and other deleterious effects.

As an external application, camphor is often employed in rheumatic and other painful affections of the muscles, joints, &c. Its solutions in oil and in spirit, and the *linimentum camphoræ compositum* of the Pharmacopœia, are good formulæ for these purposes. Twenty or thirty grains of powdered camphor added to a common poultice will sometimes relieve obstinate rheumatic affections of tendinous parts; and applied to the perinæum, it is very effectual in diminishing irritation in gonorrhœa and allaying chordee.

Official Preparations. *Mistura Camphoræ. Spiritus Camphoræ. Tinctura Camphoræ compos. Linimentum Camphoræ. Linimentum Camphoræ compositum. Linimentum Saponis.*

**CANELLÆ CORTEX**—*The Bark of the Canella alba*<sup>1</sup>.—The laurel-leaved canella is a tall straight tree, branched only at top; its bark is peculiarly whitish; the leaves stand alternately, and are placed upon short footstalks: they are oblong, obtuse, entire, dark-green, and thick: the flowers are small, seldom opening, violet-coloured, and grow in clusters upon divided footstalks at the tops of the branches; the calyx is monophyllous, and divided near its base into three lobes, which are roundish, concave, incumbent, green, smooth, membranous, and persistent; the corolla is composed of five petals, which are much longer than the calyx, sessile, oblong, concave, erect, and two of them narrower than the others; the nectary is pitcher-shaped, antheriferous, and deciduous; the anthers are twenty-one in number, distinct, attached longitudinally to the outside of the nectary, and discharge a yellow pollen; germen superior, ovate; style cylindrical, with two rough convex blunt stigmas. The fruit an oblong, one-celled, smooth black berry.

The bark of this tree is imported from the West Indies, generally in long-quilled pieces of a pale buff colour, an agreeable aromatic odour, and a warm pungent and somewhat bitter taste. The Materia Medica is already thronged with aromatics, and canella bark has nothing to recommend its preference. It contains volatile oil, bitter extract, and a por-

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 11. Ord. 1. Dodecandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Oleraceæ, Linn. Meliaceæ, Juss.



tion of a peculiar saccharine matter, which has been called *canellin*.

Official Preparation. *Vinum Aloes*.

**CANTHARIDES**—*Cantharis Vesicatoria*; *Spanish Flies*.—When taken internally in doses not exceeding a grain, cantharides prove violently stimulant to the urinary and generative organs; their effects are usually sudden, and often difficultly counteracted, and the diseases in which they have been administered often admit of a less objectionable system of treatment.

Applied externally, in the form of the “*Emplastrum Cantharidis*,” they stimulate and redden the skin, and afterwards excite a serous discharge from the exhalant vessels which raises the cuticle in a blister: and this they do more certainly, rapidly, and effectually than any other known substance. The application of blisters is generally thought little of, but much discernment is often necessary in their use, and the remedy is of a nature that should not be tampered with. Sometimes they excite irritation, restlessness, and fever, and so prove more prejudicial than useful; sometimes they heal with difficulty, and have even produced troublesome and dangerous sores; sometimes the urinary organs are violently affected by absorption; and sometimes erysipelas is brought on to an alarming extent.

The cases demanding the application of blisters are principally the following:—To the head and neck in nervous fever, attended by delirious anxiety, dimness of sight, deafness, and general debility; also in paralytic affections, either to the head, or to the part or neighbourhood of the part affected. In all cases of internal inflammatory action blisters applied near the affected part often transfer the increased action from it to the skin.

In spasmodic affections, cramp, and intermitting rheumatism and sciatica, blisters as often do harm as good. In peritoneal inflammation and inflammation of the bowels, blisters should not be applied till the violence of the symptoms has been removed by bleeding and purgatives, for, by the general soreness of the abdomen which they produce, they prevent recourse to a most important criterion of the state of the disorder, namely, the degree of pain produced on pressure. Where, however, after the active symptoms have been subdued, a chronic form of disease is apprehended, blisters are of much service, and should generally be applied successively, at intervals not too long. In dropsical habits, in very irritable temperaments, in persons suffering from gravel, stone, stricture, or any kind of

urinary irritation, blisters are, with few exceptions, contra-indicated.

In applying blisters care should be taken to attach them to the part by a proper rim of adhesive plaster, for awkward accidents have sometimes happened from their changing their place; they should not, however, be bandaged down. A blister plaster should be removed as soon as the vesication is perfect, which usually requires from 8 to 12 hours; and if urinary irritation is complained of, diluent and mucilaginous drinks of any kind should be freely administered.

It is not exactly known upon what the activity of the Spanish fly depends; its active constituents are dissolved both by alcohol and by water; hence the tincture of cantharides is often added to increase the energy of stimulating liniments.

We are chiefly supplied with cantharides from Astracan and Sicily, whence they are imported in casks and chests. They should be dry and free from mould and dust, of a peculiar but not very strong nauseous odour, brilliant colour, and not mixed with other beetles, which is frequently the case to a great extent. They may be kept for any length of time in a dry place, and secured from air; but they are very liable, notwithstanding their acrimony, to the attacks of small insects, which gradually reduce them to dust, without, however, materially affecting their activity.

**CAPSICI BACCÆ**—*The Berries of the Capsicum annum*<sup>1</sup>, or *Cayenne Pepper*.—This is an annual plant, a native of both the Indies, and common in our greenhouses, flowering in July. Stem herbaceous, round, smooth, crooked, branching, and about two feet high; leaves ovate, smooth, entire, irregularly placed on long footstalks; flowers peduncled, axillary, solitary, and white; calyx persistent, tubular, divided into five segments; corolla wheel-shaped, five-cleft, with pointed and plaited segments; filaments short and tapering, with oblong anthers; germen ovate; style slender, longer than the filaments; stigma blunt. The fruit is a conical pod, of a red or orange colour, containing a dry pulp and several flat kidney-shaped seeds. The fruit of the *Capsicum baccatum*, or *bird pepper*, is often substituted for the above in pharmacy. It is more pungent, the pods are small, shrivelled, and of a dingy-red colour. This agreeable and well-known condiment has been introduced into the Materia Medica on account of its powerfully stimulating qualities. Many varieties of capsicum probably enter into the composition of *Cayenne pepper*,

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Luridæ, Linn. Solanææ, Juss.



which consists of their powder, mixed with a very variable proportion, but generally about half its weight, of common salt. Other adulterations are practised upon it, such as the addition of coloured sawdust, and, according to some, of red lead the latter fraud is very easily detected, by the rapidity with which it sinks in water through which the pepper is diffused, or by digesting it in dilute nitric or in acetic acid, and then applying to the filtered solution the usual tests for the detection of lead, such as sulphuretted hydrogen, and sulphate of soda—the former giving a black and the latter a white precipitate.

From 100 parts of capsicum Bucholz obtained—

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Acrid resin (Capsicin).....       | 4·0  |
| Wax .....                         | 7·6  |
| <i>Bitter</i> extractive.....     | 8·6  |
| Extractive, with little gum ..... | 21·0 |
| Gum .....                         | 9·2  |
| Albuminous matter .....           | 3·2  |
| Water .....                       | 12·0 |
| Woody fibre .....                 | 28·0 |
| Loss .....                        | 6·4  |

---

100

The best form for exhibiting capsicum is in pills, mixed with bread crumb, and of the genuine pepper from three to eight grains may be called a dose. The complaint in which it is most useful is flatulent dyspepsia. In the form of gargle it furnishes a truly valuable remedy in some kinds of sore throat, more especially in the milder forms of ulcerated sore throat. The tincture of capsicum is a convenient form in such cases. From half a drachm to two drachms may be added to six ounces of infusion of roses, or any other convenient diluent; but as the acrimony of the tincture is variable, and as different throats bear it very differently, it is difficult precisely to lay down the dose. The infusion of the berries may be used as follows:—

R Capsici Baccarum contus. gr. x.  
Aquæ ferventis f℥viij. Infunde per horas duas et cola.

R Colati Liquoris f℥vij.

Mellis Rosæ,

Tinctur. Myrrhæ, āā f℥ss.

M. fiat gargarisma frequenter utendum.

Official Preparation. *Tinctura Capsici.*

**CARBO LIGNI**—*Charcoal*.—Well-burnt and newly-prepared charcoal has the property of destroying the odour of many substances, and of arresting the progress of putrefaction; upon this principle it has been ridiculously administered in those cases of dyspepsia which are attended by fetid eructations. Such cases, it is true, are often troublesome and dis-

agreeable enough, but they are only to be remedied by correcting the state of the digestive organs.

Finely-powdered charcoal forms an excellent tooth powder; it cleanses the mouth mechanically and chemically; but, as alone it is dusty and not easily miscible in water, it may, for this purpose, be mixed with an equal weight of prepared chalk, and, if requisite, scented with a drop or two of oil of cloves.

**CARDAMINES FLORES**—*The Flowers of the Cardamine pratensis*<sup>1</sup>—*Cuckoo Flower*—*Ladies Smock*.—The root of this plant, which is common in most meadows, and flowers in April and May, is perennial, ramose, and fibrous; stalk erect, round, smooth, about nine inches high; leaves pinnated, radical leaves frequently wanting, otherwise spreading in an orbicular shape, with roundish pinnæ, which are dentated; leaves upon the stalk are erect, and consist of four or five pair of pinnæ, which are narrow, spear-shaped, concave, pointed; the flowers terminate the stem in a cluster, and stand upon smooth naked peduncles; the calyx is composed of four scaly leaves, which are oblong, obtuse, concave, deciduous, and alternately protuberant at the base; the corolla is cruciform, and of a purplish-white colour, the petals veined reticularly, and a little notched at the apex; the filaments six, four long and two short; the anthers small, oblong, and upright; there is no style; the germen is round and slender, and becomes a long compressed pod of two valves, which, on opening, roll back spirally, and in the cells are many round seeds.

The flowers dried have been given in doses of from one to three drachms, in several spasmodic and convulsive diseases; but they are of too doubtful efficacy to require any further notice. The flavour of water-cress predominates in the whole plant, and the leaves are sometimes used in salad.

**CARDAMOMI SEMINA**—*Cardamom Seeds*—*the Seed of the Matonia cardamomum*<sup>2</sup>.—The *Elattaria card*: *Amomum card*: *Alpinia card*: of other Pharmacopœiæ. The cardamom tree is a native of India, about twelve feet high; it has a jointed, tortuous, fibrous root; the stems are round, smooth, and about an inch thick; the leaves alternate, sheathing, broad, green, and striated: they have an aromatic taste and smell. The flowers are in racemes, sent off from the root, and creep along the ground; they have oblong leaflets like capsules; the calyx is monophyllous, inferior, small, and divided at the margin into three obtuse teeth; the corolla is monopetalous, tubular, and four-cleft; the three outer segments are long, narrow, and straw-coloured, and the central one large, broad, concave, and

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 15. Ord. 2. Tetradynamia Siliquosa. Nat. Ord. Siliquosæ.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 1. Ord. 1. Monandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Scitamineæ.



oval. The filament is broad, slightly grooved, supporting a double emarginate crestless anther, having a deep fissure between its lobes to receive the style, which is slender, and bears a funnel-shaped ciliated stigma. The capsule is berried and trilocular.

The seeds, contained in their capsules or pods, are imported from Bengal, in cases of about 1 cwt. each; those which are small, broad, and heavy, are preferable to the longer kinds, which contain fewer seeds, and less closely packed. The capsules are insipid, but the seeds (which are sometimes found in trade out of the capsules) are highly pungent and aromatic, and abound in essential oil. Martius obtained 76 grains of oil from four ounces of seeds. Their chief use is in combination with other remedies, especially cathartics and bitter tonics; thus we find them in the *extractum colocynthis compositum*, and in the *tinctura rhei*, and *tinctura sennæ*, of the Pharmacopœia.

Official Preparations. *Tinctura Cardamomi*. *Tinctura cardamomi composita*. *Tinctura Cinnamomi composita*. *Tinctura gentianæ composita*. *Tinctura Rhei*. *Tinctura Sennæ*. *Spiritus Etheris aromaticus*. *Extractum colocynthis compositum*. *Confectio aromatica*. *Pulis Cinnamomi compositus*.

**CARICÆ FRUCTUS**—*The Fruit of the Ficus carica*<sup>1</sup>, or *Fig-tree*.—The fig is a native of the South of Europe, flowering in June or July. It has a smooth brown bark, and many spreading branches: the leaves stand upon strong footstalks, and are large, succulent, irregularly divided into five lobes, and of a deep-green colour. The fruit, in its early stage, serves as the common receptacle, and contains all the florets upon its inner surface, which are both male and female; the former has the calyx divided into three segments, lance-shaped, erect and equal; there is no corolla; the filaments are three, bristly, of the length of the calyx, and furnished with double anthers. The calyx of the female flower is divided into five segments, which are pointed, and nearly equal; there is no corolla: the germen is oval: the style is tapering, inflexed, and furnished with two pointed reflexed stigmas; the calyx is oblique, and contains in its bosom a roundish compressed seed.

Figs are gently aperient, and, when boiled, or roasted, and split, they form a useful substitute for a poultice, applied hot to suppurating tumours. This, is indeed, the most ancient form of poultice on record, for we read in 2 Kings xx. 7—"And Isaiah said, take a lump of figs: and they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered."

Official Preparations. *Decoctum hordei compos.* *Confectio Sennæ*,

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 23. Ord. 2. Polygamia Dioecia. Nat. Ord. Scabridæ, Linn. Urticæ Juss.

**CARUI SEMINA**—*The Seeds of the Carum carui*<sup>1</sup>—*Caraway Seeds*.—The root is biennial, long, thick, white, and of a warm flavour; the stalk is round, channelled, branched, and from two to three feet high; the leaves are long, and subdivided into many pinnæ, which are narrow, pointed, deep-green, and aromatic: the flowers grow in terminal umbels, generally consisting of ten radii, and furnished with a general and a partial involucre, each of which consists of four or five narrow segments. The corolla consists of five roundish blunt petals, white, and curled inward at the ends; the five filaments are slender, of the length of the petals, and crowned with small yellow anthers; the styles are short, capillary, and furnished with simple stigmas: the seeds are two.

This plant is cultivated for the sake of its seeds, which are found in the market both of English growth and of foreign importation. The former are generally preferred, as being more plump, fresh, and aromatic. The Dutch seeds are apt to be musty and insipid. Their well-known flavour is derived from the presence of essential oil, which they yield, on distillation, in the proportion of about 3 per cent. They are usefully added to purgative remedies to prevent griping; and are sometimes administered in colic and flatulency, in the form of powder, the dose of which is from twenty to sixty grains. The distilled oil, spirit, or water, are, however, generally substituted for the seed in substance.

Official Preparations. *Oleum Carui. Aqua Carui. Spiritus Carui. Tinct. Cardam. compos. Tinct. Sennæ.*

**CARYOPHILLI**—*The unopened Flower-buds of the Eugenia caryophyllata*<sup>2</sup>—*Cloves*.—**CARYOPHILLORUM OLEUM**—*Essential Oil of Cloves*.—The clove tree is low, branching, and covered by a grey bark; the leaves are large, entire, oblong, lanciform, of a bright-green colour, and stand in pairs upon short footstalks; the flowers terminate the branches in bunches; the calyx of the fruit is divided at the brim into four permanent pointed segments, and that of the flower is composed of four leaflets, which are roundish, concave, deciduous, and placed above the germen; the corolla consists of four petals, which are roundish, notched, small, and of a blue colour; the filaments are numerous, slender, inserted in the calyx, and furnished with simple anthers; the germen is oblong, large, terminated by the calyx of the fruit, and placed below the insertion of the corolla; the style is tapering, and the stigma simple; the pericarp is one-celled, umbilicated, and

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Umbellatæ.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 12. Ord. 1. Icosandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Hesperidiæ, Linn. Myrti, Juss.



terminated by the indurated converging calyx ; the seed is a large oval berry.

Cloves are imported from the Dutch settlements in India. They are of a rich brown colour, a very fragrant aromatic odour, and hot and acrid upon the tongue. A portion of oil exudes from their broken surface, when gently pressed by the nail. Good cloves yield, on distillation, about one-sixth their weight of essential oil ; but the proportion and quality of the oil varies with the quality of the spice.

Tromsdorff obtained from 100 parts of cloves—

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Volatile oil .....              | 18 |
| Tasteless resin.....            | 6  |
| Peculiar astringent matter..... | 13 |
| Extractive .....                | 4  |
| Gum.....                        | 13 |
| Water .....                     | 18 |
| Woody fibre.....                | 28 |

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100

Cloves are one of the best pharmaceutical aromatics ; and, added to bitter and other infusions, they render them more agreeable both to the palate and stomach. A drop or two of the oil corrects the griping tendency of cathartic pills, and sometimes appears to augment their efficacy. A five-grain pill, composed of equal weights of powdered cloves and jalap, will generally evacuate the bowels. The fruit of the clove tree was employed in old pharmacy under the name *Anthophylli*.

Official Preparation. *Infusum Caryophyllorum*.

**CASCARILLÆ CORTEX**—*Cascarilla Bark*—the Bark of the *Croton cascarilla*<sup>1</sup>.—This tree is a native of the Bahama Islands and Jamaica. It is about 20 feet high, and branching at top. A viscid balsam oozes from the broken shoots ; the leaves are alternate, on short petioles, ovate, lanceolate, entire, and bright green. The flowers are in axillary and terminal racemes ; the petals white, oblong, obtuse, and spreading ; the male flower has 10 subulate filaments, supporting erect, compressed anthers ; the female flower produces a roundish germen, crowned with 3 bifid spreading styles, with obtuse stigmas. The capsule is superior, trilocular, and contains one shining seed.

Cascarilla bark is imported from the Bahama Islands, in small quilled pieces, breaking short and resinous, and of a deep-brown colour in their interior. Its smell is aromatic, and when burnt it exhales a strong musky odour, which is very peculiar.

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 21. Ord. 8. Monœcia Monadelphia. Nat. Ord. Tricoccæ, Linn. Euphorbiæ, Juss.

Its taste presents a combination of aromatic warmth and bitterness. Stale, inodorous, and merely bitter cascarilla is to be rejected.

From 100 parts of cascarilla Tromsdorff obtained—

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Volatile oil.....           | 1·6   |
| Bitter extract and gum....  | 18·7  |
| Slightly bitter resin ..... | 15·1  |
| Woody fibre .....           | 65·6  |
|                             | <hr/> |
|                             | 100   |

The infusion is the best form in which cascarilla can be administered; for although the decoction retains the bitterness, it has lost the aroma: this may be made in the proportion of from 1 to 2 ounces of the bruised bark to a pint of boiling water,—a quantity which should infuse four hours in a close vessel. When strained it is of a clear brown colour, not blackened by muriate of iron, nor rendered turbid by tincture of galls.

R Infusi Cascarillæ f℥v.

Tinctur. Cascarillæ f℥ss.

M. sumat quartam partem ter vel quater die.

Two drachms of *spiritus ammoniæ compos.* may be added to the above, and it forms an excellent tonic. It is also a very good vehicle for powdered Peruvian bark, in the cure of fevers; for astringents, in bowel complaints; and for small doses of sulphate of magnesia and sulphuric acid, in dyspepsia attended by constipation. The powder of the bark is a bad form, in consequence of the large proportion of inert woody fibre which it includes.

Officinal Preparations. *Tinctura Cascarillæ. Infusum Cascarillæ.*

**CASSIÆ PULPA**—*The Pulp contained in the pods of the Cassia fistula*<sup>1</sup>.—The cassia tree is a native of Egypt and of the East and West Indies, and flowers in June. It is about fifty feet high, covered with a grey bark, and branched: the leaves consist of six pair of ovate pointed pinnæ, with transverse nerves, peduncled, and of a pale-green colour. The flowers are yellow, placed upon long pendent spikes: the leaves of the calyx are crenated, blunt and greenish; the petals unequal, spreading, and waved; the three inferior filaments are long and curved; the others have large anthers, three of which are rostrated at the extremity,

The pulp of the pod is a brisk aperient, and forms an ingredient in two confections of the Pharmacopœia—the *confectio cassiæ* and the *confectio sennæ*. It has a sweet mucilaginous

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 10. Ord. 1. Decandria Monogyniæ. Nat. Ord. Leguminosæ.



taste ; and, if given alone, is very apt to gripe. The pods are brought from the East and West Indies ; they are about half or three-fourths of an inch thick, 1 to 2 feet long, black, and furrowed upon one side. Internally they exhibit numerous transverse cells, each of which contains a seed embedded in pulp. The East Indian pods are generally preferable to the others ; but they have of late become very scarce in the British market, in consequence of want of demand.—(See *Confectio Sennæ*.)

**CASTOREUM**—*A peculiar concrete substance, contained in oval pouches situated near the anus of the Castor fiber, or beaver.*—These pouches or follicles are four in number ; the two smaller contain a fatty matter, while the larger include, in their membranous cells, a viscid fetid substance, which is the *castor* of the *Materia Medica*.

Two kinds of castor are met with in the trade ; the best is from Russia, Prussia, and Poland, and now scarcely to be obtained : the pods are large and firm, and their contents dry, of a red-brown colour, pulverulent but somewhat tough, of a strong and peculiar odour, and a bitter, nauseous taste. The other kind of castor is imported from Canada, and is the only variety now to be procured in the drug market : the pods are usually flatter, smaller, and moister than the former ; and their contents so miscellaneous, as to baffle all attempts at description. The matter which they contain is commonly of a yellow or buff colour, of a resinous appearance, and a faint nauseous odour : sometimes it is soft, viscid, and fetid in the extreme ; sometimes unctuous ; and sometimes black and inodorous. The yellow resinous kind is usually preferred, but it is difficult to say on what grounds.

100 parts of fresh Russia Castor contain, according to Bonn—

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Volatile oil .....                 | 34? (and water ?) |
| Fatty matter and resin (Castorin?) | 23                |
| Carbonate of lime .....            | 24                |
| Cellular membrane .....            | 19                |
|                                    | <hr/> 100         |

100 parts of Canada Castor from the interior of the pouch, consist of

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Volatile oil, water, and fibre .....                                  | 22.7      |
| Adipocere and resin (Castorin) ...                                    | 11.9      |
| Carbonate of lime .....   | 52.8      |
| Phosphate of lime .....   | 10        |
| Peculiar extractive matter and saline substances (trace of uric acid) | 2.6       |
|   | <hr/> 100 |

Castor has been extolled as a safe and effectual antispasmodic in typhus, hysteria, and epilepsy; but its uncertain composition and quality, and its extremely high price, are obvious bars to its use. Moreover, its virtues are of a very doubtful description; and it seems uncertain whether any real benefit has followed the use of the drug in its most genuine form. It has been administered in doses of from 10 to 20 grains; and the tincture is frequently prescribed as an addition to antinervous mixtures. In his *Pharmacologia*, Dr. Paris says—"It is antispasmodic, and seems to act more particularly on the uterine system. It certainly proves beneficial as an adjunct to antihysterical combinations."

**CATECHU EXTRACTUM**—*The Extract of the Acacia catechu*<sup>1</sup>.—This tree is a native of the mountainous parts of Hindostan, where it flowers in June; it grows about 12 feet high, and one in diameter; covered with a rough brown bark and branched at top; the leaves are bipinnated and placed alternately upon the younger branches; the pinnæ are about two inches long, and from 15 to 30 pairs, having small glands inserted between them; each wing has about 40 pair of linear leaflets beset with short hairs: the spines are short, recurved, and placed in pairs at the base of each leaf; the flowers are hermaphrodite and male, and stand in close spikes which arise from the axillæ of the leaves, and are 4 or 5 inches long; the calyx is tubular, hairy, and divided at the limb, into 5 oval pointed segments; the corolla is monopetalous, whitish, and of the same form as the calyx, but twice as long. The filaments are numerous, double the length of the corolla, crowned with roundish anthers, and adhering at the base to the germen, which is oval, and supports a slender style, terminated by a single stigma. The fruit is a lanceolate, compressed, smooth, brown pod, with an undulated thin margin, and contains 6 or 8 roundish flattened seeds, which are nauseous when chewed.

The extract, obtained from the wood, used formerly to be called *terra Japonica*, and was absurdly considered as of mineral origin. It is imported from Bengal and Bombay, and presents two varieties; one of a pale reddish-brown colour, pulverulent, and of an astringent taste accompanied by a degree of sweetness; the other of a resinous fracture, a brown colour, and a more astringent and bitter flavour. In composition these varieties resemble each other; and they are both liable to be largely mixed with sand and other impurities.

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 23. Ord. 1. Polygamia Monœcia. Nat. Ord. Leguminosæ.



Bengal and Bombay Catechu consist, according to Davy,

|                              | Bengal.    | Bombay.   |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| of Tannin .....              | 48·5 ..... | 54·5      |
| Extractive .....             | 36·5 ..... | 34·0      |
| Gum .....                    | 8·0 .....  | 6·5       |
| Lime, alumina, and sand .... | 7·0 .....  | 5·0       |
|                              | <hr/> 100  | <hr/> 100 |

Catechu is soluble, impurities excepted, in water, affording a highly astringent solution; hence the infusion and tincture are used in diarrhœa, and other cases where astringents are indicated. In relaxed uvula it is often effectual, either chewed or used as a gargle in the form of infusion; and public speakers and singers often resort to lozenges containing it, as an effectual preventive of hoarseness. In diarrhœa, connected with relaxation and acidity, two or three table-spoonsful of the following mixture will usually prove effective:—

R Misturæ Cretæ f $\overline{3}$ v.  
Tinctur. Catechu,  
Tinctur. Cinnamom.  $\overline{aa}$  f $\overline{3}$ ss. M.

Or the following powder, as directed by Dr. Paris:—

R Pulv. Cretæ Comp. cum Opio  $\overline{3}$ j.  
Pulv. Catechu gr. xv.  
Sit pulvis post singulas sedes liquidas sumendus.

Where the gums are spongy, Dr. Paris recommends the following dentifrice:—

R Cinchonæ Lancifol. Pulv.  
Catechu Extract. Pulv.  $\overline{aa}$   $\overline{3}$ ss.  
Pulv. Myrrhæ  $\overline{3}$ ij. M.

Officinal Preparations. *Infus. Catechu. Tinct. Catechu.*

**CENTAURII CACUMINA**—*The Tops of the Chironia centaureum*<sup>1</sup>, or common *Centaury*. This is a common annual, in dry gravelly soils, flowering in July and August. The root is yellowish, woody, and fibrous; the stalk erect, with few branches, smooth, angular, and about 8 or 10 inches high; the leaves are opposite, sessile, smooth, oblong, ribbed, obtusely pointed: the flowers are terminal, produced in a bunch, of a pink colour; the calyx is divided into 5 segments; the corolla is funnel-shaped, the tube cylindrical, longer than the calyx and divided at the limb, into 5 elliptical segments: the filaments are 5, white, slender, shorter than the corolla, and furnished with yellow oblong anthers,

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Rosaceæ, Linn. Gentianæ, Juss.

which become twisted: the germen is oblong, green, with a simple style and clubbed stigma.

This plant is a simple bitter, and unnecessary incumbrance to the *Materia Medica*. It may be used as a substitute for gentian.

**CERA FLAVA—CERA ALBA—***Yellow or unbleached Wax—White and bleached Wax.*—From the experiments of Huber it appears that wax is actually formed by the bee, though the frequency with which it is found as a vegetable proximate principle was generally considered as rendering it more probable that it was only collected by that insect. After the honey-comb has been completely drained of honey, it is washed, melted in boiling water, strained, and cast into round cakes of different sizes, forming the yellow wax of commerce. English and Foreign wax are found in the market, the latter being chiefly imported from the Baltic, the Levant, and the coast of Barbary. Fresh wax has a bright and peculiar yellow colour, no taste, and an agreeable honey-like odour. Its specific gravity is .950. At low temperatures it is brittle, but acquires softness and tenacity when slightly warmed, and then admits of being kneaded without adhering to the fingers. It fuses at  $140^{\circ}$ , and at higher temperatures volatilises and burns with a bright white flame. "Wax, in this form, is often adulterated with earth, pease-meal, resin, and tallow. Earth or pease-meal may be suspected when the cake is very brittle, and the colour inclines more to grey than bright pale yellow; they may be separated by melting and straining the wax. The presence of resin may be suspected when the fracture appears smooth and shining, instead of being granulated, and it may be detected by putting small pieces of the wax into cold alcohol, which will readily resolve the resinous part, without acting on the real wax. Tallow is discovered by the greater softness and unctuousity of the cake, and its disagreeable suffocating smell when melted<sup>1</sup>." Yellow wax is only used in the preparation of external applications.

Bleached or white wax is frequently adulterated with spermaceti, and is sold in the market at very different prices accordingly; in this case it is more opaque and softer than pure wax, and the surface of the cake has a peculiar mottled aspect; it is also more fusible than it should be, though, when pure, white wax is less fusible than yellow; it should not liquefy below  $155^{\circ}$ .

White wax has occasionally been employed in diarrhœa and dysentery, but upon what principle is not very apparent. As

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<sup>1</sup> *London Dispensatory*, 1822, p. 226.



an ingredient in cerates and ointments its use corresponds to that of yellow wax.

**CEREVISIÆ FERMENTUM**—*Yeast*.—A yeast poultice is sometimes successfully applied to ill-conditioned ulcerating sores. It has been recommended as a tonic and antiseptic in low fevers; but porter or ale, without the aid of yeast, would perhaps do as well.

**CETACEUM**—*Spermaceti*.—This well-known substance is found within the cranium of the *Physeter macrocephalus*, a large species of whale, chiefly found in the Southern Ocean. It occurs in the form of a spongy mass, from which the oil is allowed to run off, and the remaining portions separated by pressure. It is then purified by fusion in hot water, and afterwards by boiling in a weak potash lye: when sufficiently clear, it is cast into moulds, and allowed to concrete into those flaky, white, and translucent masses in which we see it in the shops. Its specific gravity is .940: its point of fusion about 110°. At about 500° it evaporates, and may be sublimed with little change, in close vessels.

As an internal remedy, spermaceti has no advantage over the fixed oils, yet it is sometimes administered in the dose of half a drachm, or 2 scruples, rubbed down with yolk of egg. It forms an ingredient in various ointments.

**CINCHONÆ LANCIFOLIÆ CORTEX**—*Pale Quilled Peruvian Bark*.

**CINCHONÆ CORDIFOLIÆ CORTEX**—*Yellow Bark*.

**CINCHONÆ OBLONGIFOLIÆ CORTEX**—*Red Bark*.

These have been selected from among the numerous species of the genus *Cinchona*<sup>1</sup>, as the most essential distinct varieties for medical use. They are natives of South America, especially of Chili, Peru, and New Granada, where they often form immense forests; they are mostly evergreens, and vary from 10 or 12 to 100 feet in height. A good compendium of their history is given by Dr. Thomson in the *London Dispensatory*.

The *Cinchona Lancifolia*, which furnishes the pale Peruvian bark, is a handsome, lofty, erect tree, with a cracked cineritious bark; the leaves are shining, ovate-lanceolate, about 4 inches long, and stand on footstalks about one-sixth their length; the stipules are 2, acute, silky, contiguous, and caducous. The flowers are whitish-red, and odorous, and appear in terminal brachiated, leafy, panicles, supported on

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Rubiaceæ.

round peduncles and pedicles; the calyx is bell-shaped, five-toothed, with the teeth short, acute, and contiguous; the corolla is funnel-shaped, consisting of a long cylindrical tube, divided at the limb into five segments, which are ovate or oblong, spreading, on the upper side red, on the under woolly and fringed at the edges; the five filaments are bristly, placed in the middle of the tube, and furnished with oblong anthers, twisted spirally; the germen is ovate; the style is filiform, somewhat longer than the stamina, and furnished with a round stigma; the capsule divides into two parts, the cells of which are separated by a parallel partition; the seeds are small and numerous.

Peruvian bark is imported in chests of about 200lb. weight each, chiefly in rolled up pieces, or quills, of very various dimensions, mixed with larger and flatter pieces; these differences apparently depend upon the part of the tree from which it has been taken. In trade we find these varieties in sorts; the small and fine quilled portions, being considered as most select, bear the highest price and are called *crown bark*. The larger quills form a second commercial variety; and the flat, coarse, and broken pieces are the least esteemed. This bark is covered with a grey epidermis, having numerous transverse fissures, and more or less coarse according to the size of the quills. It is also generally abundant in lichens. Internally, it is of a deep cinnamon colour. Its smell, when fresh, and in large parcels, is peculiar, and slightly aromatic: it should be free from all odour of other drugs, and from mustiness. Its fracture is short and dense; its taste austere and bitter. The decoction of this kind of bark is reddish-brown, and transparent while hot, but on cooling it acquires a much paler and yellow colour, becomes turbid, and deposits a brown sediment.

This is the species of cinchona which has always been most esteemed in the cure of intermittents, and in the treatment of diseases attended by general debility, in which it is certainly superior to all other tonics and bitters.

In ague it should be administered in sufficiently large doses in the intervals of the febrile fits; it has also been given during the paroxysm, but is then apt to nauseate. In nearly all diseases of an intermittent character, cinchona is equally effectual; in intermittent headach, for instance, rheumatism, and other periodical and spasmodic affections. In some cases of *tic douloureux*, especially those attended by slight accessions of fever, and coming on at regular intervals, Peruvian bark has also proved of essential use. In these, and in almost all other cases where a course of bark is to be regularly pursued, the stomach and bowels should be cleared in the first instance by



an emetic and purge—the bark may then be administered in gradually augmented doses, until it proves disagreeable to the stomach; the dose should then be lessened, or the remedy for a time desisted in, and resumed in the course of a few days.

In all fevers attended by great constitutional debility, and more especially where there are symptoms of putridity, bark must be regarded as the remedy from which most relief is to be hoped for; but in all cases, and here especially, care must be taken that it does not disagree with the stomach and bowels, and it must be given in conjunction with such other remedies as are likely to render it least offensive. The incautious exhibition of large doses of powdered bark in enfeebled constitutions often proves infinitely mischievous. With the exception of some particular cases, bark ought not to be administered in febrile diseases of a typhoid character, and more especially not in pure typhus, until the skin becomes moist, and the excessive foulness of the tongue begins to diminish. It is contraindicated where the pulse is quick, hard, or full, where the tongue is parched, and where there is dyspnœa, or other inflammatory symptoms.

Bark has by some been indiscriminately recommended in acute rheumatism, but the more experienced practitioner will scarcely use it till the violence of the disease has been broken by other remedies, or till there are evident periodical exacerbations.

Bark often tends to the cure of ill-conditioned sores, and of eruptive disorders: where, however, gangrene is making any progress, it should not be too much depended on; at least, brandy, wine, and other alcoholic and ethereal stimulants, should be freely conjoined with it.

In phthisis pulmonalis, bark, if given in sufficient doses to produce any decided effect, should be very cautiously administered. Dr. A. T. Thomson's remark upon its use in this disease is correct and valuable:—"Bark is found beneficial," he says, "when the accompanying hectic puts on more of the intermittent form than usual, when the debility is considerable, and blood is mixed in the sputa: and in several cases of pneumonia, when, after repeated and large bleedings and evacuations, the pulse continued hard and thrilling, and the blood buffy, although the expectoration was free and the skin open, we have seen bark produce the happiest effects<sup>1</sup>."

In addition to the uses of bark which have been enumerated, it, as well as other tonics, is occasionally effectual in the re-

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<sup>1</sup> Lond. Disp. 1822, p. 246.

moval of habitual costiveness arising from defective tone of the muscular power of the bowels <sup>1</sup>.

Were we, however, to enumerate all the diseases in which Peruvian bark, at one period or other, has been, and may probably be administered, we should go through nearly the whole catalogue of human maladies; so that, having pointed out the most prominent cases which call for its administration, I shall conclude by observing generally, that it is the most valuable tonic and strengthener that can be resorted to in all cases of general debility of constitution, from whatever cause they may proceed; and the greatest advantage is derived from it by convalescents generally, even after inflammatory diseases, where copious bleeding has been necessarily resorted to.

The usual forms in which bark is administered are powder, decoctions, and extract; to these the tincture is occasionally added.—(See *Sulphate of Quinia*.)

The powder is very effectual where the stomach will bear it, but, when persevered in, it seldom fails to create nausea and uneasiness, which, however, is often relieved by the addition of some aromatic, or by taking it, if the case admits, in Port wine. A very manifest objection to the powder is the quantity of inert ligneous matter which it includes, and which often loads the bowels to such an extent as to render the occasional administration of a purgative necessary, merely to get rid of the powder that clogs them. If bark purges, small doses of opium may be conjoined with it; if it constipates, a little sulphate of potassa, confection of senna, or any other analogous adjunct, may be used. The dose of the powder is of course very various. It has been given in the quantity of an ounce in twenty-four hours, but half a drachm, three or four times a day, will in common cases prove sufficient.

A strong decoction is a very good form for the exhibition of bark: the proportion should be 2 ounces of bruised bark to a pint of water. Two ounces of this decoction, with a drachm of the tincture, four times a day, is a full dose; or the weaker decoction directed by the Pharmacopœia may be used as a vehicle for the extract.

The extract of bark <sup>2</sup>, if carefully prepared, and, above all, dried in a very moderate heat, is an effectual preparation. It admits of being given in the form of pills; and, dissolved in syrup, affords a good form for the administration of bark to

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<sup>1</sup> Howship on Diseases of the Intestines, 3d. Edit., p. 269.

<sup>2</sup> 50lb of cinchona yield upon an average about 20lb of aqueous extract; the same quantity of bark affords about 12lb of resinous extract when acted upon by alcohol.



children, when, as is often the case, they refuse other forms of this medicine.

R Extracti Cinchonæ ʒij. Solve in  
Syrupi Aurantii fʒij. ut fiat Syrupus.

The dose of this syrup may be a teaspoonful every two or three hours, or oftener if required ; and, where the bowels admit of it, may be acidulated with diluted sulphuric acid.

Pharmaceutical chemists have long endeavoured to ascertain the nature of the active principle of bark ; to determine whether any distinct substance exists in it to which its virtues are to be ascribed. Upon this subject, a variety of speculations have been from time to time published ; but it is only lately that the discovery has been made by Messrs. Pelletier and Caventou, who have detected in *cinchona lancifolia* a peculiar crystallisable and salifiable substance, which may be called *cinchonia*.

The following analysis will furnish some idea of the components of this bark ; but the quantity of soluble matter seems to be underrated.

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Acid cinchonate of cinchonia.....   | 1·54  |
| Green fatty matter.....             | 0·79  |
| Resin.....                          | 2·18  |
| Red extractive .....                | 9·09  |
| Tannin .....                        | 5·00  |
| Gum .....                           | 4·40  |
| Lime combined with cinchonic acid . | 1·40  |
| Woody fibre.....                    | 75·69 |
|                                     | <hr/> |
|                                     | 100   |

There are many processes by which cinchonia may be separated from Peruvian bark, but the following is perhaps the simplest :—

A pound of bruised bark is boiled in about a gallon of water, to which 3 fluid drachms of sulphuric acid have been previously added. A similar decoction is repeated with about half the quantity of liquid, and so on, till all the soluble matter is extracted. The decoctions are then mixed together and strained, and powdered slaked lime is added in a proportion somewhat greater than necessary to saturate the acid ; the precipitate that ensues (a mixture of cinchonia and sulphate of lime) is collected, dried, and boiled for some minutes in strong alcohol, which is then decanted off *while still hot*, and fresh portions successively added for the repetition of the same operation, until it ceases to act upon the residue, which is now merely sulphate of lime. The different alcoholic solutions are then put into a retort, or still, and considerably evaporated, during

which, and especially on cooling, acicular crystals of cinchonia are deposited. When the whole is thus collected, the crystals, if yellow or discoloured, must be again dissolved in boiling alcohol, and thus, by recrystallisation, they will be obtained colourless.

Cinchonia thus procured is a white crystallised substance, of a slightly bitter taste, and very difficultly soluble in water. With most of the acids it forms intensely bitter and crystallisable compounds. The *sulphate of cinchonia* crystallises in prisms, and is soluble in about 4 parts of water at 60°. When cinchonia is heated in a glass tube it fuses, and at a high temperature is decomposed with the evolution of ammonia and a copious deposition of carbon. It appears to be a ternary compound of carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen, and apparently contains no oxygen<sup>1</sup>.

In consequence of its difficult solubility in water, cinchonia in its pure state is not well calculated for use as a medicine, but the sulphate has been employed with great success in all those diseases in which bark is used. The dose is from 1 to 3 grains, two to four times a day: it may be given in a pill, and accompanied with other bitters, tonics, or aromatics.

Neither pure cinchonia, however, nor its sulphate, have been much used, in consequence of the comparative cheapness of *quinia*, an analogous principle extracted from yellow bark, and supposed to be possessed of the same medical properties.

**YELLOW BARK** is the produce of the *Cinchona cordifolia*, or *heart-leaved Cinchona*. The tree yielding this bark is found on the mountains of Loxa and Santa Fè, flowering from May to September. "It is a spreading tree, rising on a single, erect, round stem, of no great thickness, and covered with a smooth bark, externally of a brownish-grey colour. The younger branches are quadrangular, smooth, leafy, sulcated, and tomentose; the leaves, which are about 9 inches in length, are opposite, petiolate, spreading, of an oblong oval, cordate or egg-shaped, entire, shining on the upper surface, ribbed and pubescent on the under, with the petioles flat on one side and roundish on the other, about a thumb's length in breadth, and of a purple colour; but the leaves of this species vary even more than those of *lancifolia*. The flowers appear in large terminal leafy panicles, supported on long, compressed, tetragonous peduncles; the calyx is 5-toothed, downy, and of a dull purple colour; the corolla internally tomentose; the tube of a diluted red colour; the limb shaggy, white above and

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<sup>1</sup> Quarterly Journal of Science, vol. xvi. p. 279.



purplish below, and the segments spreading, with reflected tips; the filaments are short, supporting linear anthers, bifid at the base, which reach as far as the upper part of the tube of the corolla. The germen is tomentose, and changes to an oblong narrow capsule, about an inch and a half in length, marked with 10 striæ, of a reddish-brown colour, and crowned with the calyx<sup>1</sup>."

Yellow bark is found in the shops chiefly in flat pieces, and in large rolls, or quills, 8 or 10 inches long. Its external epidermis is brown and thick; internally its colour is orange-brown. In smell it resembles the pale bark, but its taste is much more decidedly bitter, and scarcely at all astringent.

This species of cinchona has never been in the same estimation as the former; it has been deemed less febrifuge and tonic, and generally regarded more as a simple bitter than as possessing the decided peculiarities of the *cinchona lancifolia*. The experiments, however, of Pelletier and Caventou have taught us that yellow bark includes a peculiar salifiable substance, separable from it by the method just described, and possessed of eminent febrifuge and tonic powers. To this substance, as has already been remarked, the term *quinina* or *quinia* has been applied. It is uncrystallisable, and separates from the alcoholic solution in the form of a viscid substance somewhat like birdlime. When dried in a gentle heat it becomes brown and brittle; but if very cautiously dried in an exhausted vessel, it is white and pulverulent, fusible, decomposed at a dull red heat, and, in addition to the elements of cinchonia, affords unequivocal evidence of containing oxygen, inasmuch as water is produced during its destructive distillation.

*Sulphate of Quinia*.—Quinia combines with sulphuric acid, and forms a difficultly soluble salt, in small silky crystals, perfectly distinct from sulphate of cinchonia, but, like it, intensely bitter. This salt consists, in its anhydrous state, of—

|                                  |   |       |   |       |
|----------------------------------|---|-------|---|-------|
| One proportional of quinia ..... | = | 366   | = | 90.15 |
| One ditto sulphuric acid .....   | = | 40    | = | 9.85  |
|                                  |   | <hr/> |   | <hr/> |
|                                  |   | 406   |   | 100   |

And the *recently prepared* crystals contain about 15 per cent. of water, so that they may be regarded as composed of—

|   |   |       |   |       |
|---|---|-------|---|-------|
| One proportional of anhydrous sulphate... | = | 406   | = | 74.94 |
| Eight ditto water .....(9×8)              | = | 72    | = | 15.06 |
|   |   | <hr/> |   | <hr/> |
|   |   | 478   |   | 100   |

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<sup>1</sup> Lond. Disp.

When crystallised sulphate of quinia is exposed to air, it effloresces, losing about three-fourths of its water of crystallisation. It is in this effloresced state that it ought to be used in medicine. Dried at a temperature of about  $212^{\circ}$ , the whole of the water is expelled, and the dry salt remains.

This salt readily dissolves in diluted sulphuric acid; and the solution, *slowly evaporated*, yields distinct prismatic crystals of *bisulphate of quinia*, composed of—

|                                     |   |       |   |       |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|---|-------|
| One proportional of quinia.....     | = | 366   | = | 62.03 |
| Two ditto sulphuric acid.....(40×2) | = | 80    | = | 13.56 |
| Sixteen ditto water.....(9×16)      | = | 144   | = | 24.41 |
|                                     |   | <hr/> |   | <hr/> |
|                                     |   | 590   |   | 100   |

The neutral sulphate is very difficultly soluble in water, requiring about 70 parts of cold, and 30 parts of boiling water, for its solution; the latter solution deposits crystals as it cools. It requires about 60 parts of alcohol for its solution at  $55^{\circ}$ , but is much more soluble in boiling alcohol. It is *very* sparingly soluble in ether. When heated, it fuses, and then burns, leaving a bulky charcoal. The high price of this salt renders it liable to adulteration, so that it should be purchased from sources which can be depended upon, and tested as to purity before it is received into stock. The greater part of that used in this country is prepared in Paris, and generally extremely pure. The substances occasionally detected in it are water, sugar, gum, starch, ammoniacal salts, and some earthy salts, such as sulphate of lime, sulphate of magnesia, and acetate of lime<sup>1</sup>: it also occasionally contains the peculiar crystalline compounds known to chemists under the names of caffeine and salicin. Genuine sulphate of quinia ought not to lose more than 6 or 8 per cent. of water, though, if it has not effloresced, it will occasionally contain more. To detect sugar, dissolve the suspected salt in warm water, and precipitate the quinia by the careful addition of weak solution of potassa: the taste of the sugar, no longer concealed by the bitterness of the quinia, will then become evident. Gum and starch are separable from quinia by boiling it in strong alcohol, which leaves those impurities undissolved. The salts of ammonia are indicated by the ammoniacal odour which is evolved on mixing the sulphate with a little warm solution of potassa. Earthy salts and some other impurities are detected by burning the sulphate upon a piece of platinum leaf; if pure, it fuses, flames, and leaves a bulky charcoal, which may gradually be burnt off without residue; if impure, earthy matters remain. Caffein

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<sup>1</sup> Phillips, Phil. Mag. and Ann. III. iii.



may be detected by digestion in pure sulphuric ether, which dissolves it, and leaves sulphate of quinia nearly untouched. Salicin is of more difficult detection, since it is nearly insoluble in ether, but it is more soluble in cold alcohol than sulphate of quinia, and its solution is not precipitated by caustic ammonia. Pure sulphate of quinia, decomposed by weak solution of potassa, ought always to leave at least 75 per cent. of quinia, dried at  $212^{\circ}$ .

Sulphate of quinia has been exhibited in doses of from 1 to 5 grains three or four times a day, though 8 grains are by some regarded as equivalent to an ounce of bark. It appears most prudent to begin with small doses, and, if they answer the intended purpose, not to increase them; if not, they may be augmented till the disease feels the influence of the remedy; but in large doses this salt will be found to nauseate, to create weight and pain in the stomach, attended by thirst, a white tongue, and a quickened and hardened pulse, symptoms which of course should be watched.

It has appeared to me to agree best when administered with dilute sulphuric acid, provided this plan is not otherwise contra-indicated. The following formulæ may therefore be adopted:—

R Quiniæ Sulphatis ʒj.

Conservæ Rosæ q. s. ut fiat pilulæ xx. quarum sumatur una  
vel duæ ter die cum haustu sequenti.

R Decoct. Cinchonæ fʒiss.

Acid. Sulphur. Dilut. ℥xv.

Syrup. Aurant. fʒj. M.

The compound infusion of roses of the Pharmacopœia is an elegant vehicle for sulphate of quinia.

R Quiniæ Sulphatis gr. ij.

Infus. Rosæ Compos. fʒxj.

Tinct. Cort. Aurant.

Syrupi ejusdem, aa fʒss.

M. fiat haustus bis die sumendus.

It is presumed in these preparations of cinchonia and quinia, that we possess all the activity of the respective barks, unincumbered by inert matters, which nauseate the stomach and load the bowels in cases where large and continuous doses are requisite; and experience, as far as it has gone, seems to justify this opinion. The most severe test of the virtues of cinchonia and quinia seems to be the cure of intermittent fevers, and the most obstinate agues have been very effectually treated by sulphate of quinia. In very delicate constitutions, and in many

of the diseases of children, these remedies are also of essential service.

RED BARK is the produce of the *Cinchona oblongifolia*. This is a tall tree, covered with brown, smooth bark; the leaves are large, entire, pale and glossy upon the upper surface, and veined beneath; they are oblong, oval, and supported on flat petioles; the stipulas are supra-axillary, opposite, contiguous, united at the base, and of an obovate figure; the flowers are in large, erect, compound, terminal panicles, on long, many-flowered peduncles; the calyx is purple, small, and 5-toothed; the corolla white, with the limb spreading and hairy within; the filaments, which are very short, are inserted into the tube of the corolla, and support oblong anthers, bifid at the base. The capsules are large, oblong, slightly striated, and curved, and crowned by the calyx.

Red bark occurs in commerce in flat and quilled pieces, covered with a reddish-brown epidermis, and internally of a fibrous texture, and a rusty red tint. It tastes more astringent but less bitter than the yellow bark, and has not the peculiar aromatic austerity of pale bark. It contains both cinchonina and quinia. This bark is scarcely used medicinally, though the decoction is a very good astringent febrifuge.

It may be observed, in regard to the above varieties of cinchona, that their infusions all redden delicate vegetable blues, a property which appears to be derived from a peculiar acid to which the term *kinic acid*<sup>1</sup> has been applied, and which is combined with the cinchonina and quinia, so as to form acid salts.

Official Preparations. *Decoctum Cinchonæ. Infusum Cinchonæ Tinct. Cinchon. Tinct. Cinchon. compos. Tinct. Cinchon. ammoniata Extractum Cinchonæ. Extr. Cinch. resinos.*

CINNAMOMI CORTEX—*The Liber or Inner Bark of the Laurus cinnamomum*<sup>2</sup>.

CINNAMOMI OLEUM—*The Oil of the Bark.*

The cinnamon tree is a native of Ceylon; it attains a height of about 20 feet, the trunk extending about 6 feet in length, and a foot and a half in diameter, sending off numerous branches covered with a smooth bark; the leaves stand in opposite pairs upon short footstalks; they are ovate-oblong, obtusely pointed, entire, firm, from 3 to 5 inches long, bright green, and marked with 3 longitudinal nerves; the common peduncles grow from the younger branches, and, after dividing, produce the flowers in a paniculated umbel; the petals are 6, oval, pointed, concave, spreading, of a yellow-

<sup>1</sup> This appellation so associates itself in the mind with kino, that I should suggest the term *cinchonic acid* as preferable.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 9. Ord. 1. Enneandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Lauri.



ish colour, the 3 outermost broader than the others; the 9 filaments are shorter than the corolla, flattish, erect, standing in ternaries, and at the base of each of the 3 innermost are 2 small glands; the anthers are double, and unite over the top of the filament; the germen is oblong, the style simple, of the length of the stamina, and the stigma triangular and depressed: the fruit resembles a small olive; it is of a blue colour, inserted in the corolla, and contains an oblong nut.

Cinnamon is well known as a warm, sweet, and pungent aromatic. It is found in trade of very different qualities, the best being nearly as thin as paper, breaking splintery, and of a yellow-brown colour; other varieties are coarser and thicker, break shorter, and are considerably less pungent and sweet. This is especially the case with the Chinese cinnamon. The finest cinnamon is imported exclusively from Ceylon, though it also thrives in Malabar, Sumatra, and the Eastern Islands, and has been cultivated in the Brazils and elsewhere.

The principal use of cinnamon is as an accompaniment to other medicines, especially those which are nauseous, bitter, or flatulent upon the stomach: at the same time we often avail ourselves of its warmth and astringency in bowel complaints, and here the tincture is a good form. In common diarrhœa, for instance, connected with dyspeptic acid, 3 table-spoonsful, three or four times a day, of the following mixture, rarely prove ineffectual.

R Misturæ Cretæ f̄3v.  
Tinctur. Cinnam. f̄3j. M.

The genuine *oil of cinnamon* is exceeding hot, aromatic, and sweet; but its flavour, when a little diluted, is singularly rich and agreeable, and very different from that of oil of cassia, which is sometimes substituted for it, and with which it is occasionally adulterated. It sinks in water. It is chiefly imported from Ceylon; and in doses of from 4 to 8 drops, rubbed down with sugar and yolk of egg, and mixed with a little cinnamon-water and wine, it forms an agreeable and powerful stimulant, as in the following mixture:—

R Vitelli Ovi No. j.  
Olei Cinnamomi ℥xx. Misce optimè, et adde  
Vini Albi (Madeira or Sherry),  
Aquæ Cinnamomi aa f̄3ij.  
Aquæ distillatæ f̄3ij.  
Sacchari purif. 3ij.

Misce. Sumantur cochlearia tria ampla pro dosi.

Official Preparations. *Tinctura Cinnamomi*. *Tinctura Cinnamomi composita*. *Spiritus Cinnamomi*. *Aqua Cinnamomi*. *Pulvis Cinnamomi compositus*.

**COCCUS**—*Coccus Cacti*—*Cochineal*.—This valuable insect is imported from Mexico and New Spain, where it feeds on several species of *cactus*. It is small, rugose, and of a deep mulberry colour; and, except in the males, which are scarce, the head is not to be distinguished from the body: they are without wings, and very sluggish and torpid. They are scraped from the plants into bags, killed by boiling water, and then dried in the sun; those insects are preferred which are plump, dry, and of a silvery appearance. Those which are of a dark hue yield a less brilliant powder.

The great consumption of cochineal is by the dyers of scarlet cloth. In pharmacy its principal use is as a colouring material, and as such it is added to several tinctures. It has been recommended as allaying the spasmodic action in whooping cough, especially when administered with carbonate of potassa; but its efficacy is at least very doubtful, and generally discredited.

The principal adulteration to which cochineal is liable is the admixture of a manufactured imitation composed of coloured dough. These spurious grains are detected by the action of boiling water, which dissolves and disintegrates them, while it has little action upon the genuine insect.

**COLCHICI RADIX ET SEMINA**—*The recent Root, and the Seeds of the Colchicum Autumnale*<sup>1</sup>, or *Meadow Saffron*.—This is a hardy perennial, found in meadows, and bearing a purple flower in September; its bulbous root then decays, and the new bulbs are in greatest perfection from early in June to the middle of August. The bulb is solid, oval, and covered with a brown membrane; the leaves are radical and spear-shaped; they die away before the autumn, and are followed by the flower, which has no calyx, is pale pink, springs directly from the bulb, and consists of a tube about 6 inches long, half of which is hid in the ground, and a limb divided into 6 lance-shaped segments; the filaments are about half the length of these segments, united to the upper part of the tube, and support yellow erect anthers; the stigmas are revolute; the fruit is a 3-lobed and celled capsule, on a thick, short peduncle; the germen remains underground till the spring, when it rises with the leaves; the seeds are ripe in June.

The bulbs contain an acrid milky juice, in which Messrs. Pelletier and Caventou have detected a peculiar salifiable body which they call *veratrine*, and to which they ascribe the acrimony and efficacy of the plant. Vinegar and wine are its best

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 6. Ord. 3. Hexandria Trigynia. Nat. Ord. Spathaceæ, Linn. Junci, Juss.



solvents. "To preserve the virtues of the plant, the bulb, as soon as possible after it is dug up, should be cut into transverse slices not thicker than 1-8th of an inch, and dried by placing the slices upon clean white paper, distinct from each other, without heat, or at a very low temperature. The test of the drug being good and properly dried is the appearance of a blue colour on rubbing it with a little distilled vinegar and alcoholic solution of guaiacum. The slices also should not appear deeply notched, or panduriform, as this is the mark of the bulb having begun to empty itself for the nourishment of the young bulbs, and consequently to suffer in its medicinal powers from the chemical change which at this period its contents must necessarily undergo for the nourishment of the offsets. It should be kept in slices in well-stopped bottles<sup>1</sup>."

100 parts of fresh colchicum, gathered in autumn, contain, according to Stoltze,—

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Starch.....   | 10·42 |
| Veratria and bitter extractive (gallate of veratria?).....            | 2·20  |
| Extractive (oxidized).....  | 1·24  |
| Gum and sugar.....  | 4·47  |
| Volatile matter smelling of horseradish, fibre, water, and loss,..... | 81·67 |

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100

Colchicum seems originally to have been recommended as a diuretic in dropsical affections, but as such it is very whimsical and uncertain in its action. In gout, it may almost be called a specific, for it very rarely fails to break up the paroxysm, sometimes acting upon the bowels, at others upon the kidneys and skin, and often without any apparent accompanying effect. In acute and chronic rheumatism it is also a valuable remedy; a single dose will often allay obstinate pains of the joints and tendinous expansions. Small doses frequently repeated are sometimes preferable, and, if they operate favourably, they generally increase the secretion of urine, and remove the red sediment which in such cases it usually deposits when cold.

Some attention is requisite as to the form in which colchicum is administered. Sir Everard Home ascribes much of the griping and nauseating effect that sometimes follows the use of the wine to the sediment which forms in it, and which may be removed without injury to the specific effect of the medicine.

The Pharmacopœia prescribes a wine and a vinegar of colchicum, the former being much stronger than the latter, and most inconveniently prone to decomposition. Acids are said to render the operation of colchicum violent and drastic; whilst alkalies produce a milder but not less efficacious opera-

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<sup>1</sup> London Dispensatory, 1822.

tion; and the acetic tincture, or even the wine, may without impropriety be administered with magnesia. About ℥xx. of the *vinum colchici* may be regarded as a medium dose, and may be taken when the paroxysms of pain are violent: the evening is the best time for its administration, and the following is a good form:—

R Vini Colchici min. xxv.

Magnes. Carbon. ʒj.

Aquæ Cinnam.

Aquæ aa fʒss. M.

Mr. Thomson observes that, of the saturated vinous infusion made by macerating an ounce and a half of the *dried* bulb in 12 ounces of white wine, from 30 to 60 minims may be taken whenever the patient is in pain. The London Pharmacopœia directs the fresh root, probably under the apprehension of its being carelessly dried; but it must be remembered that, if the fresh roots be not used as soon as removed from the earth, the process of vegetation goes on, and their qualities are nearly as effectually changed as if they had remained buried.

The celebrated specific for gout, known under the name of *Eau Médicinale d'Husson*, is a vinous infusion of colchicum.

A vinous infusion, or tincture of the *seeds* of colchicum, has lately been recommended by Dr. Williams, of Ipswich, as possessing the virtues of the root without many of its pernicious qualities. Its influence upon the gout appears as certain as that of the root, whilst it is less liable to purge and nauseate.

Official Preparations. *Acetum Colchici. Vinum Colchici.*

COLOCYNTHIDIS PULPA—*The Pulp of the Bitter Apple, or Cucumber—The Fruit of the Cucumis Colocynthis*<sup>1</sup>. The root is annual, white, and divided into branches, which run deep into the ground; the stems are hairy and trailing; the leaves are triangular, obtuse, sinuated, hairy, green on the upper surface, and rough and pale beneath; the flowers are yellow, solitary, and appear at the axillæ of the leaves; the calyx of the male flowers is bell-shaped, and divided at the brim into 5 tapering segments; the corolla is monopetalous, bell-shaped, and divided at the limb into 5 pointed segments; the filaments are 3, 2 of which are bifid at the apex,—they are short and inserted into the calyx; the anthers are linear, long, erect, and adhere together on the outer side; the calyx and corolla of the female flower are similar to those of the male; the 3 filaments are without anthers; the style is short, cylindrical, and furnished with 3 stigmata, which are thick,

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 21. Ord. 8. Monœcia Monadelphia. Nat. Ord. Cucurbitaceæ.



gibbous, and bent outwards; the fruit is round, and as large as an orange, divided into 3 cells, abounding in pulpy matter, intersected by cellular matter, and includes many ovate compressed seeds. The flowers appear from May to August.

The fruit is imported dried, and generally peeled. The dried pulp is white, very light and spongy, and almost entirely soluble in water, forming a mucilaginous and intensely bitter solution, which, evaporated to dryness, furnishes the *extractum colocynthis* of the Pharmacopœia, a preparation very rarely employed, and indeed rendered useless by the compound extract, which is a valuable purge. When given alone, colocynth, in the form of powder or extract, is apt to be drastic and violent in its operation, and in large doses produces inflammation of the bowels, bloody motions, and other untoward symptoms.

The *extractum colocynthis compositum* is a very judicious and useful combination of purgatives, and may be administered either alone or with calomel. The average dose is from 5 to 10 grains, which seldom fails to clear the bowels in 2 or 3 copious evacuations. If administered in insufficient doses, it sometimes gripes and nauseates, and the bowels remain disturbed till a larger dose, or some other purgative, is given.

The greatest difference will be found in the activity of this extract, obtained from different sources; half a drachm of one sample being sometimes less purgative than 10 grains of another. This arises either from carelessness in its preparation, as when it is burnt; or inattention to the goodness of its ingredients; or, not unfrequently, to fraudulent substitution of some of its components. It is said that the seeds of colocynth are sometimes substituted for an equal weight of pulp; if so, the extract must be much less active, as the seeds, though their extract is purgative, yield very little of it. That colocynth pulp which is dense and deep grey, or dirty brown, is unhealthy, or has been injured in drying, and should be rejected.

Meissner obtained from 100 parts of dry pith of colocynth—

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Colocynthis (a peculiar bitter principle)... | 18·4 |
| Slightly bitter extractive .....             | 10·0 |
| Bitter fixed oil .....                       | 4·4  |
| Resin, insoluble in ether .....              | 13·2 |
| Gum and starch .....                         | 24·1 |
| Phosphate of lime .....                      | 2·7  |
| Phosphate of magnesia .....                  | 3·0  |
| Fibre .....                                  | 19·2 |
| Water .....                                  | 5·0  |

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100

Official Preparations. *Extractum Colocynthis. Extractum Colocynthis compositum.*

CONII FOLIA ET SEMINA—*The Leaves and Seeds of the Conium maculatum*<sup>1</sup>, or common *Hemlock*.—This is a very common umbelliferous biennial, flowering in June and July. Its stem and leaves emit when rubbed a strong and peculiar odour, which has been compared to that of cat's urine.

The root is biennial, tapering, often forked, 8 or 10 inches long, and finger-thick; the stalk is 5 or 6 feet high, round, shining, and speckled, towards the top branched and striated, near the bottom about 3 inches in circumference, and covered by a powdery bluish exudation; the lower leaves are large, tripinnated, shining green, standing upon long striated concave footstalks, which proceed from the joints of the stem; the upper smaller leaves are bipinnated, and placed at the divisions of the branches; the flowers are produced in umbels, universal and partial, and composed of several striated radii; the universal involucre consists of 5 or 7 leaves, lanceolated, whitish at the margin, and bent downwards; the partial involucre is composed of 3 or 4 leaves placed on the outer side of the radical stalk; the petals are 5, oval, white, and curl inwards at their points; the stamina are about the length of the corolla, and crowned with whitish anthers; the 2 styles are filiform, inclining inwards, and terminated by round stigmas; the fruit is oval, striated, consisting of 2 irregularly-hemispherical, striated brownish seeds.

The leaves should be collected for pharmaceutical use just before the plant flowers, and the stalks having been picked off, they should, if intended for powder, be carefully dried, either by exposure to sun and air, or in a very moderately heated stove. In this state they may be preserved in green glass bottles; or the powder may be kept in closely-stopped opaque phials. If intended for extract, the leaves should be bruised in their freshest state, and the juice expressed and immediately evaporated.

Hemlock is a powerful narcotic, and often very serviceable as a substitute for, or accompaniment to opium. In allaying morbid irritability of the system, attended by any local or general excess of vascular action, as in certain stages of phthisis, in the coughs that are apt to hang about patients who have suffered from pleurisy or peripneumony, in glandular tumours, and unhealthy sores, hemlock is generally preferable to opium. It has also been found of use in chronic rheumatism, and especially in whooping cough.

The best forms of its exhibition are the powder of the dried leaves, and the extract; these may also be united. They

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Umbellatæ.



may be given in 3 to 5 grain doses, repeated three or four times a day till they produce tranquillity; they sometimes admit of being augmented to 20 grains, but the dose must be modified according to the effect produced; and if nausea and a tendency to vertigo should ensue, it must be forthwith reduced.

The following pills are very effectual in allaying common cough and pulmonary irritation, and three or four of them may be taken at bed-time to relieve the restlessness occasioned by rheumatic or other local pains :—

R Extract. Conii,  
Pulv. Ipecac. compos. ʒā gr. v.  
M. ft. pilulæ duæ horâ decubitûs sumendæ.

An over-dose of hemlock produces giddiness, wandering of the mind, dilated pupil, convulsive motions of the muscles of the face, stupor, and the other symptoms of this class of poisons. These are said to be counteracted by vinegar and the vegetable acids.

Hemlock is occasionally applied externally to allay the pain of irritable ulcers and cancerous sores: sometimes it is singularly effectual, at others it seems inert, and sometimes appears to increase irritation. The powder, mixed with a bread and water poultice, is the usual form of applying it.

It is supposed that the efficacy of hemlock resides in a peculiar alkaline principle, which has been called *conia*, combined in the herb with a distinct acid (*conic acid*), but this requires further investigation. Conia is said to be easily volatilised: those preparations, therefore, of hemlock which have been least exposed to heat, and the extract prepared in vacuo, will probably be most effectual.

Officinal Preparation. *Extractum conii*.

CONTRAJERVÆ RADIX—*The Root of the Dorstenia Contrajerva*<sup>1</sup>—*Contrajerva Root*.—This plant has a perennial, tapering, unequal, compact, rugose root, brown externally, whitish within, and furnished with fibres; the leaves are of irregular shape, lobed, dentated, pointed, veined, and placed upon long radical footstalks, which are winged towards the leaves; the flower-stems are round, simple, rise several inches in height, and each supports an irregular quadrangular receptacle, containing the parts of fructification; the flowers are male and female, immersed in the common receptacle, and occupying its entire disc; the former consist of 2 slender, short filaments, with yellow anthers (not therefore *tetrandria*), the latter of a roundish germen, supporting a simple style, termi-

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 4. Ord. 1. Tetrandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Scabridæ, Linn. Urticæ, Juss.

nated by an obtuse stigma ; the capsule, when ripe, possesses an elastic power by which the seed is ejected.

Contrajerva root is imported from South America and the West Indies, where it might safely remain without any loss to medicine. It is a warm bitter, and mixed with chalk forms the *pulvis contrajervæ compositus* of the Pharmacopœia, a preparation as useless as its basis. The old physicians considered it as an antidote to all poisons, except corrosive sublimate.

**COPAIBA**—*The liquid Resin of the Copaifera officinalis*<sup>1</sup>, commonly called *Balsam of Copivi*.—The copaiva tree is high, branching, and covered by brown rough bark ; the leaves are large, pinnated, with 4 pairs of pinnæ, which are alternate ; they are pointed, ovate, and stand upon short foot-stalks ; the flowers are white, and produced in terminal branched spikes : there is no calyx : the petals are 4, oblong, acute, concave, and spreading : the filaments are 10, slender, incurved, rather longer than the corolla, and crowned by oblong incumbent anthers : the germen is round, compressed, and stands upon a short pedicle ; the style is filiform, incurved, as long as the filaments, and having an obtuse stigma ; the fruit is an oval bivalvular pod, containing one egg-shaped seed, involved in a berried arillus. It is native in South America, and copaiva balsam is probably derived from several species.

This liquid resin, obtained by wounding the bark of the tree, is imported from Brazil in small casks. It has the consistency of oil, but is more viscid and glutinous ; a pale-yellow colour ; a peculiar and somewhat aromatic odour, disagreeable only to those who have taken it as a medicine ; and a pungent nauseous taste. Its specific gravity is .950. It communicates flavour to water shaken with it, and is perfectly soluble in about 8 parts of alcohol, and in ether in any proportion. When rubbed upon paper and dried, it leaves an apparently greasy stain, but this differs from that of oil, by admitting of being written over with common ink. If adulterated with oil, the stain would of course be truly greasy, but I have rarely met with any samples which I have seen reason to believe either spurious or sophisticated ; though the appearance of the article as it occurs in trade differs considerably, yet this is probably owing to the circumstances under which it is collected.

The term *balsam* being now generally restricted to compounds of resin and benzoic acid, is not applicable to this substance ; nor is it strictly a liquid resin, but a compound of volatile oil and resinous matter. When distilled, the former, which is highly odorous and pungent, and upon which the virtues of

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 10, Ord. 1. Decandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Leguminosæ.



copaiba depend, passes over, and there remains an insipid resin in the retort, which has sometimes been employed in medicine under the name of *inspissated copivi balsam*.

The proportion of oil to resin is about 40 to 60.

Copaiba has long been celebrated in the cure of gleans, fluor albus, and other similar discharges unattended by active inflammation, and more lately it has been found effective in the relief of hæmorrhoidal affections. Its principal operation is diuretic, and in large doses it proves gently aperient. Where there is inflammatory action going on anywhere in the urinary canals, this medicine should be avoided; yet I have seen it of service in allaying the irritation and diminishing the secretion of red or uric sand.

It may be given in doses of from 15 to 40 drops twice or thrice a day, either upon water, or triturated into an emulsion by the aid of yolk of egg or gum arabic. One drachm has been administered three times a day in piles, and in this dose it generally purges. It is apt to nauseate, and I think more so when given in emulsion than when simply swallowed with plain water, but the effect may, in some degree, be prevented by the addition of some aromatic water to the emulsion of copaiba, as in the following:—

R Mucilaginis Acaciæ ʒiss.

Copaibæ ʒss. tere simul et adde gradatim

Aquæ Menthæ viridis ʒj.

Tincturæ Capsici ℥v.

M. fiat haustus, bis vel ter quotidie sumendus.

**CORIANDRI SEMINA**—*The Seeds of the Coriandrum sativum*<sup>1</sup>.—The coriander, though a native of the south of Europe, is common in corn-fields, and any rich soil on the road side; it is an annual, with an erect, round, branched, smooth stalk, about 2 feet high; the leaves are variously pinnated; the flowers, which appear in June, are reddish-white, and placed in terminal umbels; the general corolla is irregular and unequal; the petals are 5, oblong, bent inwards; the 5 filaments are slender, and furnished with roundish yellow anthers; the globular germen is placed below the insertion of the corolla, and supports 2 short styles, bent in opposite directions, and terminated by simple stigmas; the fruit is globular, and divisible into 2 seeds. *Coriander seeds* have a sweet and rather nauseous aromatic flavour. They are considered as carminative and stomachic, but the *Materia Medica* teems with preferable substitutes, and they might have been conveniently rejected.

Official Preparation. *Confectio Sennæ*.

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Umbellatæ.

**CORNUA**—*The Horn of the Cervus Elaphus: Stags' Horns.*—Hartshorn shavings yield to boiling water about one-fourth of gelatine. Four ounces, boiled in a quart of water down to a pint, strained, and set aside to cool, yield a tremulous jelly, but the flavour is always somewhat disagreeable, and savours of glue. Jelly is a nutritious article of diet, but cannot be regarded as belonging to the Materia Medica.

**CRETA**—*Carbonas Calcis friabilis — Chalk.*—Prepared chalk, or that which has been cleansed and powdered by elutriation, has long been used in medicine as an anti-acid and absorbent, and is sometimes improperly termed an astringent. In conjunction with astringents, it relieves those diarrhœas which are excited by acid matter in the stomach and intestines. Chalk is sometimes useful upon the same principle that we administer magnesia, in calculous affections; but it is not often thus employed.

Official Preparations. *Creta preparata. Pulvis Cretæ compos. Pulv. Cretæ compos. cum Opio.*

**CROCI STIGMATA**—*The Stigmas of the Crocus sativus*<sup>1</sup>.—This is a perennial bulbous plant, probably a native of Asia, but cultivated for medical use in several parts of Europe, and in England chiefly in Cambridgeshire and Essex. In September it bears a violet flower, the stigma of which is tripartite, of a very dark orange colour, and peculiar odour. The stigmas, separated from the rest of the flower, and carefully dried, form the *saffron* of commerce. Next to English saffron, that imported from France and Sicily is preferred to the Spanish, which is usually greasy and carelessly cured. The petals of marigold and of safflower are sometimes used to adulterate saffron: but they are detected by infusion in water, when they unfold, and are easily recognised. Saffron from which a portion of colouring matter has already been extracted is sometimes fraudulently blended with the genuine drug; it then has a dingy aspect, and yields a paler infusion than it should do. A kind of saffron compressed into cakes is also found in trade; it is very inferior to the former, and is chiefly used as a colouring matter by confectioners.

Good saffron should be of a very bright colour, not too moist, of a warm and slightly bitter taste, and a peculiar odour remarkably adhering to the clothes. Its aqueous and spirituous infusions should be of a bright and very deep golden-yellow colour; sulphuric acid renders it blue, and nitric acid green; with other re-agents it assumes other colours; hence

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 3. Ord. 1. Triandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Irides.



Bouillon la Grange considers it as a peculiar variety of vegetable extract, and calls it *polychroite*.

100 parts of saffron contain, according to Vogel—

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Volatile oil ..... | 7·5  |
| Wax .....          | 0·5  |
| Polychroite .....  | 65·0 |
| Gum .....          | 6·5  |
| Albumen .....      | 0·5  |
| Water .....        | 10·0 |
| Woody fibre .....  | 10·0 |

100

Saffron was once regarded as powerfully exhilarating and antispasmodic, and was especially famous for its supposed emmenagogue powers: “in one or two instances,” says Dr. Cullen, “I have had some reason to believe in its power of this kind, but in many other instances, though repeatedly employed in large doses, it has entirely disappointed my expectation<sup>1</sup>.” The fact is, that from modern practice it has long been rejected, as a drug of no powers, and is now chiefly used as a colouring material in several tinctures, in aromatic confection, and in the syrup of saffron.

Official Preparations. *Decoctum Aloes compos.* *Tinctura Cinchonæ compos.* *Tinct. Aloes compos.* *Tinctura Rhei.* *Tinct. Rhei compos.* *Confect. aromat.* *Syrupus Croci.*

**CUBEBA**—*The Berries of the Piper Cubeba*<sup>2</sup>.—*Cubebs*, or *Java Pepper*, used to be employed in old pharmacy, and frequently occur in the voluminous prescriptions of ancient pharmacopœias. They have lately been restored to our *Materia Medica*, principally, if not exclusively, as a cure for gonorrhœa. They have much of the appearance of common pepper, but each berry has a short stalk attached to it; whence the term *piper caudatum*. Those which are large, heavy, plump and of a fragrant odour, are to be preferred to the light, small, and inodorous. Their flavour is aromatic and

<sup>1</sup> *Materia Medica*, ii. 313.

<sup>2</sup> We have no recent botanical description of this plant: the following is from Linnæus: (Suppl. Plant.)

*Piper Cubeba*.

*Piper* foliis oblique ovatis sive oblongis, venosis, acutis, spica solitaria pedunculata oppositifolia, fructibus pedicellatis.

Habitat in Javæ sylvis.

Frutex—Glaberrimus.

Caulis—Articulatus flexuosus.

Folia plerumque oblonga, variis ovata sive lanceolata, non tenera ut in plurimis hujus generis speciebus, integerrima, petiolata, venosa, venis simplicioribus, alternis.

Margo folii in uno latere non tam longe decurrit quam in altero.

Spicæ solitariæ, pedunculatæ, breves, in quibus baccæ illæ pedicellatæ, quæ in officinis Pharmaceuticis et culinaribus nomine Cubearum notissimæ sunt.

bitter; but they have not the biting pungency of common pepper. According to Vauquelin, they contain a volatile oil and resin, forming a compound not unlike copaiba balsam. They may be administered most effectually in the form of powder, and in doses of from 1 to 2 drachms, three or four times a day, in a wine-glassful of water: as proof spirit dissolves the efficacious parts of cubebs, the tincture may also sometimes be employed.

R Cubebæ contus. ℥iv.

Spiritus Vini tenuioris oct. j.

Digere per dies septem, et per chartam cola.

Under this treatment there is generally an increased secretion of urine, which becomes deep coloured, and acquires an aromatic odour. Cubebs seem to be most advantageously given in the early and acute form of the disease, moderating the pain and suppressing the discharge with almost specific certainty. According to Mr. Jeffreys<sup>1</sup>, the good effects of cubebs manifest themselves generally within forty-eight hours after the first dose; but unless material relief be obtained in the course of five or six days, their continued administration is rarely to be recommended.

**CUMINI SEMINA**—*The Seeds of the Cuminum cyminum*<sup>2</sup>.—Cummin is a native of Egypt and Ethiopia; the root is annual, simple, fibrous; the stalk round, slender, branched, sometimes procumbent, or 6 or 8 inches high; the leaves are narrow, linear, pointed; the flowers purple, and produced in small umbels, usually composed of four radii, each supporting a partial umbel of the same number; the involucre consist of 4 narrow-pointed segments; all the florets are fertile; the corolla consists of 5 petals which are unequal, bend inwards, and notched at the apex; the 5 filaments have simple anthers; the germen is large, ovate, and placed below the corolla; the styles are minute and terminated by simple stigmas; the fruit is oblong, striated; the two seeds are oblong and flat on one side, convex and striated on the other.

*Cumin Seed* is imported from Sicily and Malta; its odour is very strong and peculiar; its taste aromatic and bitter. Neither cumin seed nor the *emplastrum cumini* of the Pharmacopœia have sufficient importance to merit their retention in that work. Some kinds of cheese, much esteemed in Switzerland, are flavoured with cumin seed; to most persons, however, its taste and smell are disagreeable.

Officinal Preparation. *Empl. Cumini*.

<sup>1</sup> Observations on the Use of Cubebs, &c. London, 1821.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Umbellatæ.



**CUPRI SULPHAS**—*Sulphate of Copper*—*Blue Vitriol*.—The persulphate of copper commonly met with in commerce is manufactured for the use of colour-makers and paper-stainers, and is usually sufficiently pure. It occurs in rhomboidal crystals, of a fine blue colour, a nauseous, metallic, and styptic taste, and soluble in about 4 parts of water, at 60°. It consists of

|    |                                    |       |        |       |       |          |
|----|------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|----------|
| 1  | proportional of peroxide of copper | ..... | =      | 80.   | ....  | 32.      |
| 2  | ———— sulphuric acid                | ....  | 40 × 2 | =     | 80.   | .... 32. |
| 10 | ———— water                         | ..... | 9 × 10 | =     | 90.   | .... 36. |
|    |                                    |       |        | <hr/> | <hr/> |          |
|    |                                    |       |        | 250.  |       | 100.     |

This salt is administered internally as an emetic, and is chiefly useful in cases where the stomach has been paralysed by narcotic poisons. Thus, in cases of over-dose of opium, it will often occasion vomiting where ipecacuanha and other emetics are ineffectual. The best mode of administering it is to dissolve half a drachm in six ounces of water, and to direct a third part, diluted with warm water, to be taken every ten or fifteen minutes, until it operates. In very small doses it is sometimes prescribed as a tonic, especially in certain cases of epilepsy:—

R Cupri Sulphatis gr. iij.

Medullæ Panis ʒj.

Fiat massa in pilulas xxiv. dividenda, quarum capiat æger unam ter quaterve in die.

Even in these small doses, this salt of copper, if persevered in, as is generally necessary in the cases for which it is prescribed, is apt to excite spasmodic pains of the stomach, an effect which may generally be counteracted by the addition of a quarter of a grain of opium to each pill.

In obstinate intermittents 2 grains have been given twice a day, with half a grain of opium, with manifest advantage; but it is a remedy which should not be resorted to on trifling occasions.

Externally, sulphate of copper is a useful escharotic, and, properly diluted, it is sometimes applied advantageously to foul and indolent ulcers, or as a styptic in external hæmorrhage. In ulcerated sore throat, where there is no material constitutional affection, the sores may generally be made to heal by touching them two or three times a day with a camel-hair pencil, moistened with the following solution:—

R Oxy mel. simplicis fʒss.

Cupri Sulphatis gr. v.

M. ft. solutio modo dicto applicanda.

**CUSPARIÆ CORTEX**—*The Bark of the Cusparia febrifuga*<sup>1</sup>—*Angustura Bark*.—This is a tall evergreen tree,

<sup>1</sup> Bonplandia of Willdenow. Cl. 5, Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Quassiæ.

with a cylindrical trunk, grey bark, and branching towards the top; the leaves are arranged alternately, and consist of 3 oblong, ovate-pointed leaflets, and attached at their bases to a single channelled petiole, 10 to 12 inches long. The inflorescence is a terminal raceme, composed of alternate peduncles, each bearing from 3 to 6 flowers; the calyx is inferior, persistent, 5-toothed and tomentose; the corolla is funnel-shaped, and composed of 5 petals, united below so as to appear as one tube. The stamens are shorter than the tubes, and have white filaments supporting yellow anthers; the pistil is formed of 5 oval ovaries, from which a fleshy style rises supporting 5 fleshy stigmas. The fruit consists of 5 oval bivalve capsules, each inclosing one seed.

The bark is imported from South America, in flat and quilled pieces, breaking with a short and resinous fracture, covered with an ash-coloured epidermis, and internally smooth, and of a dull brownish-yellow colour. A spurious and poisonous bark, probably that of one or more of the species of *Strychnos*, is sometimes met with under the name of *angustura*; this is more intensely bitter, and in shorter and less regular pieces than the genuine; internally, it is nearly black, and externally covered with a rough rust-coloured epidermis.

Genuine *angustura*, or *cusparia* bark, has a strong bitter flavour, accompanied by a peculiar and somewhat aromatic pungency. Its odour is rather nauseous and fishy. Its chemical nature has not been accurately determined. I have failed in endeavouring to obtain from it a salifiable base, though it evidently contains a peculiar principle analogous, probably, to that existing in *cinchona*. It is a valuable tonic, especially in cases of dyspepsia, with diarrhœa, and loss of appetite. It may be given in powder, in doses of 10 grains twice or thrice a day, or in infusion, or decoction. In cases of flatulency of the stomach, attended by nausea, 5 grains, with the same weight of rhubarb, taken an hour before dinner, will often effectually restore the appetite and digestion.

This remedy was first brought into general notice by my father, who published an essay upon it, in 1791, particularly pointing out its beneficial effects in the treatment of dysentery and of chronic diarrhœa, especially that form of the disease to which persons who have long resided in warm climates are more particularly subject, and which often assume, even in this country, more or less of a dysenteric aspect: in these cases the powdered bark may be conjoined with some aromatic, if necessary, such as the *pulvis cinnamomi compositus*, or with the *pulvis cretæ compositus* of the present Pharmacopœia; or the following mixture may be prescribed:—



R Cuspariæ Corticis contusi ʒj.  
 Aurantii Corticis exsiccati ʒss.  
 Aquæ ferventis octarium j.  
 Macera per horas quatuor in vase clauso et cola.

R Colati infusi f ʒvij.  
 Tinctur. Cinnamomi,  
 Syrup. Aurantiorum aa f ʒss,  
 Cretæ præparatæ ʒj.

M. fiat mistur. de qua sumatur cyathus (cochlearia iij.—iv) ter  
 vel quater quotidie.

In the cure of intermittents this bark does not come into competition with cinchona; but in mixed and nervous fevers, and generally as a tonic, it is less apt to disagree with the stomach, and to run off by the bowels: it admits, in these cases, of the usual combinations with saline, aromatic, and antispasmodic medicines.

According to Fischer, 100 parts of Angustura bark contain,

|                                      |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Volatile oil .....                   | 0·3   |
| Bitter extractive (Angusturia) ..... | 3·7   |
| Bitter resin and elastic resin ..... | 3·8   |
| Gum .....                            | 5·7   |
| Woody fibre .....                    | 86·5  |
|                                      | <hr/> |
|                                      | 100   |

Officinal Preparation. *Infusum Cuspariæ.*

CYDONIÆ SEMINA—*The Seeds of the Pyrus Cydonia*<sup>1</sup>  
 —*Quince Seeds.*—The quince tree, originally from Cydon in Crete, but commonly cultivated in our gardens, is generally rather low and distorted, sending off several branches, and covered by a brown bark; the leaves are simple, oval, entire, green on the upper and whitish on the under side, standing on short footstalks; the flowers are large, solitary, pink or whitish, and placed close to the axillæ of the leaves; the calyx consists of one leaf, divided into 5 oval notched segments; the corolla consists of 5 convex roundish petals, notched at their extremities; the filaments are about 20, tapering, shorter than the corolla, inserted into the calyx, and furnished with simple anthers; the germen is orbicular; the styles are 5, slender, nearly as long as the filaments, and supplied with simple stigmata; the fruit is divided at the centre into 5 membranous cells containing the seeds, which are oblong, angular, pointed at one end and blunt at the other, compressed, and covered with a brown pellicle.

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 12. Ord. 5. Icosandria Pentagynia. Nat. Ord. Pomaceæ, Linn. Rosaceæ, Juss.

These seeds abound in mucilage, which is easily extracted by boiling them, previously bruised, in water. The viscosity of the decoction thus obtained, which exceeds that of mucilage of gum arabic, sometimes recommends it as an external application to excoriated surfaces; but it is very prone to become mouldy and sour, and hence, if employed, should always be freshly prepared.

Official Preparation. *Decoc. Cydoniæ.*

**DAUCI RADIX ET DAUCI SEMINA**—*Daucus Carota*<sup>1</sup>.—The root is biennial, spindle-shaped, fleshy, yellow; the stalk is round, erect, branched, furrowed, hairy, and about 2 feet high; the leaves are pinnated, deep green, hairy, and stand upon footstalks nerved on the under side; the umbels, which are composed of several radii, form a flat surface at top while in flower, but become drawn in and concave when the seeds ripen; the general involucre consists of several leaves, cut into long narrow segments; the corolla consists of 5 petals, of which the outermost is the largest; they are white, heart-shaped, and bent inwards; the 5 filaments are capillary, and furnished with simple anthers; the germen is small, and supports 2 reflexed styles, terminated by blunt stigmas; the seeds are two, egg-shaped, convex, rough on one side, covered with strong hairs, and flat on the other. It grows wild in meadows, and flowers from June to August.

The London College has inserted the root of the *cultivated carrot* (*hortensis*) and the seeds of the *wild carrot* (*agrestis*) in the list of the Materia Medica. The former is sometimes used in poultices, and the latter have been recommended as a diuretic in cases of gravel. Though a carrot poultice is a very good poultice, neither one nor the other is entitled to the place which it occupies: it is not likely that the apothecary should keep carrots, and the seeds are not worth keeping. The root of the wild carrot is said to be poisonous.

**DIGITALIS FOLIA ET SEMINA**—*The Leaves and Seeds of the Digitalis purpurea*<sup>2</sup>, or *Foxglove*.—This very common biennial plant grows in dry gravelly soils; and in June or July produces an elegant spike of bell-shaped flowers, bearing a little resemblance to a finger of a glove. The root is biennial, branched, and fibrous; the stalk simple, erect, tapering, covered with fine hair, and rising 4 or 5 feet; the leaves are large, oval, serrated, veined, downy, and stand on short footstalks; the calyx consists of 5 segments, which are elliptical,

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Umbellatæ.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 14. Ord. 2. Didynamia Angiospermia. Nat. Ord. Luridæ, Linn. Scrophulariæ, Juss.



pointed, ribbed, and the upper segment narrower than the others; the flowers grow in a long terminal spike; they are large, monopetalous, pendulous, bell-shaped, purple, and dotted on the inside; the tubular part swells near the base, and opens at the limb into 4 irregular, short, obtuse segments, of which the uppermost is shortest and truncated; the peduncles are round, short, villous, and bend downwards; the filaments are white, crooked, inserted in the bottom of the tube, and crowned with large oval yellow anthers; the style is simple; the stigma bifid; the germen oval; the capsule bilocular, containing many blackish seeds.

The leaves, which are the part chiefly employed in medicine, have scarcely any smell, but a bitter and slightly nauseous flavour. They should be gathered just as the plant is about to blow; those which are not perfectly green and healthy should be rejected; the footstalks and the thick part of the rib of the leaves should be pulled off; and they should be dried at a temperature not exceeding  $212^{\circ}$ , so as to retain their colour, and appear of a tolerably lively green when powdered.

Foxglove is a most important article of the *Materia Medica*, and requires to be considered under two points of view—as a sedative, and as a diuretic.

The powers of this plant as a sedative are distinct and peculiar: it seems to act more *directly* as such than any other article of the *Materia Medica*; for we perceive no previous stimulation, nor are those other symptoms produced which usually attend the operation of narcotics. Its effects upon the pulse are extremely remarkable, and every way deserving of the most serious attention. Where it is full, hard, and frequent, it, in most instances, first reduces the fulness and hardness, and afterwards the number of pulsations in a given time. Dr. Baildon<sup>1</sup> brought down his own pulse from 110 to 40 beats in a minute. In a patient in St. George's Hospital, suffering under acute rheumatism, a very full, strong, and rapid pulse, of 130 in a minute, was first rendered soft and compressible, and afterwards fell, in the course of six hours, to 60 beats in the same period. In a patient suffering under phthisis, the pulse was lowered in forty-eight hours from 125 to 45 beats in a minute. But this remarkable effect upon the pulse is attended by other important symptoms, which have not, I think, been sufficiently dwelt upon by writers on the *Materia Medica*. Upon any sudden, and often upon any trifling exertion, the pulse immediately quickens, the heart throbs violently, nausea and fainting come on; and persons under the full influence of

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<sup>1</sup> London Disp., p. 287, note.

digitalis have not unfrequently died suddenly under such circumstances. Dr. Baildon found that, when his pulse had been reduced to 40 beats in a minute, if he merely assumed the erect posture, it would rise to 100: when sitting up in a chair it was 72: the same effect, he says, was produced upon several other persons. The consumptive patient above adverted to got up in bed, in consequence of being suddenly seized with nausea, and his pulse, which half an hour before was 45, became too quick to count; he then fainted, and some ammoniacal stimulants were administered for his recovery, after which scarcely any pulse could be felt; it was alarmingly slow and feeble. A dropsical woman, 65 years of age, under the full influence of digitalis, fell in a fainting fit on walking across the room: she showed appearances of recovery, but vomiting and fainting again came on, and she died. I relate these from among many similar and well-authenticated cases, to show the necessity of the utmost precaution in the use of digitalis, and of the great care and attention which persons require who have been put under its full influence. It was formerly very incautiously used as a diuretic, without much reference to its sedative power; and such cases as the above, of fainting fits frequently recurring, and of sudden death, were not uncommon. When such symptoms as have been described come, as they sometimes do, suddenly and dangerously on, they are best treated by small doses of ammonia and ether; paying, at the same time, the utmost attention to the perfect quiet of the patient, who should on no account be allowed to sit erect in bed, and still less to attempt to get up.

Such are the remarkable effects of digitalis, considered as a sedative, and they are seldom attended by any other prominent symptoms. The skin is usually moist, thirst is not complained of, the pulse occasionally may intermit; but that decided effect upon the brain which narcotics in full doses produce is never eminently shown by digitalis. In very large doses, where it has been intentionally administered as a poison, it soon produces excessive nausea, vomiting and purging, cold sweats, delirium, repeated faintings, convulsions, first local and then general, and death.

As a diuretic, digitalis is chiefly to be depended upon in conjunction with other remedies, especially with squills and mercurials. Upon this subject, especially as relates to the theory of its action, the reader may advantageously consult Dr. Paris<sup>1</sup>. We may now, therefore, inquire into the indications

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<sup>1</sup> Pharmacologia.





which foxglove is calculated to fulfil, and the diseases in which it has chiefly been found efficacious.

Its singular effect upon the pulse naturally suggests its trial in inflammatory diseases, especially where bleeding has, perhaps, been carried to as great an extent as is consistent with safety, without effecting that entire reduction of symptoms which might have been hoped for. The question which here suggests itself is, how far the reduction in fulness and frequency of pulse which digitalis produces is equivalent, where any inflammation is going on, to the same effect produced by the lancet. To which the answer appears, from reference to various authorities, but especially to actual observation and experiment, to be, that in such cases digitalis is not to be trusted in: and, although we may lower and soften the pulse, we do not at the same time produce corresponding effects upon the part in which the inflammatory action is going on. In other words, the effects of digitalis are perfectly distinct from those brought about by actually diminishing the quantity of circulating blood.

Foxglove has been recommended in active hæmorrhage, but the recommendation is, I think, a dangerous one; for if hæmorrhage should recur in a patient under its full influence, death would probably follow.

Independent of its diuretic effects, digitalis is sometimes a very useful palliative to the most distressing symptoms of hydrothorax; but the cases in which the greatest and most decided benefit has resulted from its use are those in which there appears to be some organic affection of the heart or larger blood-vessels. Hence, in *angina pectoris*, in some cases of aneurism, in violent and remitting attacks of palpitation, digitalis has proved a most valuable and effectual sedative. On the necessity of the extremest caution in its use in such cases, and of most assiduously watching the various fluctuations of the patient, I need not again insist. Be it, moreover, always remembered, that in some constitutions the alarming symptoms are much more readily induced than in others; and that it is impossible to state, in any case, what precise quantity of the remedy must be administered to produce particular effects.

As a diuretic, digitalis has been much extolled in various dropsical affections; but its influence upon the pulse must not be overlooked, as it often has been, where thus administered; nor should it in any case, when diuretic effects are desired, be given alone, but rather as an auxiliary to other diuretics, which are certainly more operative in that state of the system which digitalis induces. I knew an instance of a person who suffered

under anasarca of the legs, and who applied for relief at a dispensary, where he received a box of pills, one of which he was directed to take three times a day. On the evening of the third day, he complained of great debility and faintness, and in the course of the night vomiting and frequent fainting fits came on; in the morning he died, upon attempting to get out of bed. This was apparently a case, perhaps a peculiar one, of poisoning by digitalis; it however shows the risk of carelessly administering it, and the necessity of attending to those peculiarities of habit which sometimes seem to render the system particularly open to its lowering and sedative influence. The pills were composed of 2 grains of digitalis, 1 of squills, and half a grain of calomel.

The best forms for the administration of digitalis appear to be the powder and the tincture; to these the Pharmacopœia adds an infusion.

Of the powdered leaves 1 grain may be given, in the form of pills, twice a day, as an incipient dose, and it may be gradually increased by quarter-grains until some decided effect results; recollecting always, however, that its influence may come on suddenly, and that, without any previous notice, the pulse may, after the fourth or fifth dose, rapidly sink, and bring the patient into a state requiring careful management. In the use of the tincture precaution is equally necessary. As the prescription now stands in the Pharmacopœia, 4 ounces of the dried leaves are directed to be digested for fourteen days, without heat, in a quart of proof-spirit: it is then to be filtered off for use. Of this tincture, thus prepared, about 10 minims twice a day may be called an incipient dose, and it may be gradually and cautiously augmented by 2 minims daily, till it produces the desired action upon the pulse. It is sometimes customary, in pharmaceutical laboratories, to leave tinctures upon the dregs, after they have stood a due time, and gradually to pour off the clear part for use; the dregs are afterwards pressed out, and the last portion of tincture acquires, by this careless proceeding, double the strength of the first. A person suffering under hydrothorax, who had been in the habit of taking 40 drops of tincture of digitalis every night, went from home without his medicine, and was obliged to send to an apothecary in the country for an ounce of the tincture, of which he took the accustomed dose: its effects were much more violent than usual; and he died, exhausted by repeated faintings, in the morning. Very particular inquiries were made respecting the quality of the tincture, when it appeared that the leaves had been shaken out of the bottom of the bottle



in nearly a dry state, since an ounce of the tincture was with much difficulty squeezed out of them. Here, therefore, the strength of the tincture was not only increased by long standing, but probably very greatly augmented by evaporation; and there is little doubt that the patient died of the over-dose, and not of his disease. Similar instances of carelessness in regard to tinctures are not uncommon; and they deserve severe censure, from the uncertainty of effect that must always ensue, and from the dangerous consequences that may, as in the above instance, follow.

There is another precaution, not only applicable to the use of digitalis, but also to that of other analogous and powerful remedies. It is well known that their dose may often be augmented, by slow degrees, to a remarkable extent. A person habituated to opium will perceive no effect from a dose which would, perhaps, prove fatal to one who had never taken it. Doses of digitalis are borne by persons who have long used it, which could not have been given to them with impunity in the first instance. Hence persons often do themselves mischief by resuming their medicine after some interval in the same doses they had previously employed it. This observation particularly applies to patients who undertake the management of their own cases, and who erroneously suppose that a dose once taken may always with impunity be repeated.

The effects of digitalis, like those of other medicines, are sometimes singularly modified by peculiarities of the patient's habit: it has thus been administered in large doses without any corresponding affection of the pulse; sometimes it proves merely diuretic, and sometimes it acts as a brisk purge; but its general operation is that above described.

Digitalis has not been employed as an external application with any success; nor have any experiments hitherto enabled us to determine upon the nature of its active principle, which will probably be found analogous to that of the other narcotics. This is rendered further probable by the existence of nitrogen in foxglove, as shown by the ammonia which is afforded by the destructive distillation of its extract.

The seeds of digitalis are of no use; not that they are deficient in activity, but that they are uncertain in their operation.

The activity of digitalis has by some recent writers been referred to a crystallisable principle which has been termed *digitalia*; but its existence is problematical. Haase obtained from 100 parts of the dry herb—

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Extractive (including digitalia).....       | 15·0      |
| Gum, with traces of potash and tartar ..... | 15·0      |
| Resin .....                                 | 5·5       |
| Oxalate of potassa .....                    | 2·0       |
| Water .....                                 | 5·5       |
| Woody fibre .....                           | 52·0      |
| Loss .....                                  | 5·0       |
|   | <hr/> 100 |

Official Preparations.—*Infusum Digitalis*, *Tinctura Digitalis*.

**DOLICHI PUBES**—*The hairy covering of the Pods of the Dolichos pruriens*<sup>1</sup>, or *Cowhage*.—This is a climbing perennial plant, native in the East and West Indies. The pods are covered with short reddish-brown spiculæ, which easily adhere to the fingers, and, if rubbed a little, occasion a most intolerable itching. An electuary, formed by dipping the pods in treacle, syrup, or despumated honey, and then scraping them, has long been used as an anthelmintic, especially for the removal of the *lumbricus teres*. The alimentary canal is protected by its secretions, but, as soon as the cowhage arrives at the worm, it produces excessive irritation, obliging it to quit its hold; and, aided by a purge, it is usually expelled. But cowhage is often a very troublesome remedy, on account of the intolerable irritation it creates about the anus; and it is a vermifuge which, in this country, is scarcely ever resorted to.

**DULCAMARÆ CAULIS**—*The Stalk of the Solanum Dulcamara*<sup>2</sup>, or *Woody Nightshade*.—This plant is common in hedges, flowering about the end of June: its stalk is slender, climbing, alternately branched, angular, brittle, hollow, and 6 or 8 feet high; the bark is grey or purplish; the leaves long, oval, pointed, veined, and deep green; the flowers are in clusters; the corolla is monopetalous, and divided into 5 pointed segments, bent back, purple, and marked at the base with 2 green spots; the tube is short, with a black mouth; the calyx small, and divided into 5 segments of a purple hue; the filaments are short, black, and inserted in the tube of the corolla; the anthers are yellow, erect, and unite at their points; the style is longer than the stamen, and terminated by a simple obtuse stigma; the germen is oval, and becomes a bilocular berry, which gradually reddens, and contains several flat yellowish seeds.

The decoction of the stalks of this plant, which should be gathered in autumn, has a bitter-sweet taste, and operates both

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 17. Ord. 4. Diadelphia Decandria. Nat. Ord. Leguminosæ.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Solanæ.



as a narcotic and diuretic. In very large doses it produces the usual symptoms of the narcotic poisons : I say nothing of the forms of its exhibition and doses, as it is a very uncertain and useless remedy. It has chiefly gained celebrity as an article in diet-drinks in certain cutaneous affections; and has also been recommended as efficient in the relief of chronic rheumatism ; but it is entitled to no manner of confidence either in these or other complaints. The peculiar extractive matter which it contains has been called *picroglycion* or *dulcamarin*. According to Pfaff, 100 parts of the dried stalks contain—

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Bitter-sweet extractive .....  | 21·8 |
| Albumen .....  | 3·2  |
| Gummy extractive .....   | 12·0 |
| Wax .....  | 1·4  |
| Resin, containing benzoic acid .....                                       | 2·7  |
| Gummy matter, smelling of vanilla, a little starch, acids, and salts ..... | 2·0  |
| Oxalate and phosphate of lime .....  | 4·0  |
| Woody fibre .....  | 52·9 |

---

 100

Official Preparation. *Decoctum Dulcamaræ*.

**ELATERII PEPONES**—*The Fruit of the Momordica Elaterium*<sup>1</sup>, or *Wild Cucumber*.—This plant is cultivated exclusively for medical use. It is a native of the south of Europe, flowering in June and July; its root is annual, long, thick, and fleshy; its stems are branched, round, thick, trailing, but without tendrils: the leaves are somewhat heart-shaped, slightly sinuated, veined, rough, reticulated, deep green above and pale underneath, and stand upon strong footstalks, from the base of which the flowers proceed, and are both male and female; the corolla is divided into 5 acute segments, reticulated with green veins, and placed above the germen; the calyx consists of 5 narrow acute segments; the stamina in the male flowers are 3, short and tapering, 2 having cloven anthers, and the other a simple one; in the female flowers the filaments are very short, and without anthers; the style is short, trifid, and terminated by oblong green stigmata; the fruit is oblong, hairy, and divided into 3 cells, containing many flat seeds; it falls from its stalk when fully ripe, and throws out its juice through the remaining aperture, whence the term *squirting cucumber*. For medical use they are gathered in September, in rather an unripe state; the juice is *gently* expressed<sup>2</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 21. Ord. 8. Monœcia Monodelphia. Nat. Ord. Cucurbitacæ.

<sup>2</sup> The persons who cut and press these cucumbers generally suffer extremely from inflammation and ulceration of the fingers and parts touched by the juice.

strained, and set by for some hours, during which it deposits a grey-green sediment, which, when carefully dried, is the substance not quite properly called *extract of elaterium* in the Pharmacopœia. It is generally sold under the name of *elaterium*;—it should be light and friable. According to Dr. Paris, it contains about one-tenth of its weight of a peculiar principle to which its acrimony and activity are referrible, and which he terms *elatin*<sup>1</sup>. According to Dr. Clutterbuck<sup>2</sup>, 40 cucumbers yield only 6 grains of genuine elaterium, which is contained in the juice surrounding the seeds, and which is violently purgative in doses not exceeding one-eighth of a grain. But elaterium, as prepared according to the directions of the Pharmacopœia, seldom operates in less than half-grain doses, which may be repeated every two hours till they produce the desired effect. It is chiefly used in dropsical affections, and its operation is remarkable for the quantity of watery secretion which it brings away; but it should be administered with much caution, and by no means frequently, for hypercatharsis and unmanageable diarrhœa, attended by great debility, sometimes follow its injudicious exhibition.

Mr. Hennell obtained a crystalline principle from elaterium by boiling it in alcohol, then distilling off the greater part of the alcohol, and leaving the residue to spontaneous evaporation; the residual matter consists of a green resin, in which the activity of the elaterium appears to reside, and a crystalline matter: the purgative resin is separable by ether, the crystallisable principle being left nearly pure; it separates from its hot alcoholic solution in colourless acicular tufts; ether and water scarcely dissolve it; it is fusible, has a bitter taste, and is neither acid nor alkaline. It contains no nitrogen. 100 grains of elaterium afforded 40 of this crystalline substance and 21 of green resin, the residue being starch, ligneous fibre, and earthy matter.

Officinal Preparation. *Extract. Elaterii*.

ELEMI—*The resinous exudation of the Amyris Elemifera*<sup>3</sup>.

Elemi is a yellow, semi-transparent substance, of a slightly aromatic odour and bitterish taste. It is not used internally, and enters into one preparation only, the *unguentum elemi compositum*, formerly known under the name of *yellow basilicon*.

According to Bonastre, 100 parts of American elemi consist of—

<sup>1</sup> Pharmacologia, ii, 203.

<sup>2</sup> Medical Repository, xii.

<sup>3</sup> Cl. 8. Ord. 1. Octandria Monogynia, Nat. Ord. Terebintaceæ.



|   |      |
|---|------|
| Volatile oil .....  | 12·5 |
| Resin soluble in cold alcohol .....                         | 60·0 |
| Resin insoluble in cold, but soluble in boiling alcohol ... | 24·0 |
| Bitter extractive .....                                     | 2·0  |
| Impurities .....  | 1·5  |

---

 100

**EUPHORBIAE GUMMI RESINA**—*The gummy resinous exudation of the Euphorbia officinalis*<sup>1</sup>.—All the species of euphorbia abound in an acrid milky juice. The officinal euphorbium is a native of Africa, and the *gum resin*, as it is not quite properly called, is imported in the form of small hollow tears of an intolerably acrid flavour. It is dangerously active as an emetic and cathartic, and may be considered as a virulent poison; hence it has long been rejected as an internal remedy: and externally, as an errhine, it is so apt to occasion excessive irritation and swelling of the parts, that, although it has sometimes been diluted with inert powders, and snuffed up the nostrils in cases of deafness, amaurosis, &c., it is now no longer employed even in this way. Why, therefore, is it retained in our *Materia Medica*?

From 100 parts of euphorbium Brandes obtained—

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Acrid resin .....  | 43·77 |
| Cerin .....  | 13·70 |
| Myricin .....  | 1·23  |
| Caoutchouc .....   | 4·84  |
| Phyteumacolla .....  | 0·20  |
| Malate of lime and traces of sulphate .....                                | 18·82 |
| Malic acid, with malate of potassa and traces of benzoate of potassa ..... | 4·90  |
| Sulphate of potassa and of lime .....                                      | 0·55  |
| Phosphate of lime .....  | 0·15  |
| Water .....  | 5·40  |
| Woody fibre and impurities .....   | 5·50  |
| Loss .....   | 0·94  |

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 100

**FARINA**—*Wheat Flour*—*The pulverised grain of the Triticum hybernum*<sup>2</sup>, or *winter Wheat*.—This article rather belongs to the *Materia Alimentaria* than to the *Materia Medica*. The uses of starch have already been adverted to under the head *Amylum*. Gluten, the other ingredient of wheaten flour, is that which confers upon it its peculiar tenacity when blended with water, and which especially fits it for the process

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 11. Ord. 3. Dodecandria Trigynia. Nat. Ord. Euphorbiæ.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 3. Ord. 1. Triandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Gramina.

of panary fermentation in the manufacture of bread. The average composition of wheaten flour is—

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Starch .....       | 77    |
| Gluten .....       | 20    |
| Inert matter ..... | 3     |
|                    | <hr/> |
|                    | 100   |

Officinal Preparation. *Mucilago Amyli*.

**FERRUM**—*Iron*—*Ferriamenta et fila*—*Iron filings and wire*.—These are the most convenient mechanical forms of iron for pharmaceutical use. It is necessary, however, to be careful that steel filings and wire are not substituted for those of pure or soft iron, since they are unfit for some important preparations.

Ferruginous compounds, of various kinds, have been very long used in pharmacy, and rank among the most valuable and effective of the mineral tonics. The metal is sometimes recommended in the form of fine filings, or powder, taking the chance of its meeting with some acid, or other matter, in the stomach, by which it may become oxidized, and thus be rendered active. To say nothing, however, of the mechanical mischief often done by metallic filings, it is surely preferable to exhibit the metal already oxidized, or in some of its soluble combinations, than to trust to the accidental solution of a portion of it in the stomach. Upon the whole, we may safely reject iron filings as a preparation for internal use. Perhaps the most certain and effectual form of iron is the protoxide or protocarbonate, as it exists in the *mistura ferri compositi* of the Pharmacopœia, the dose of which is about an ounce and a half, once, twice, or thrice a day, as the case may require.

The *tinctura ferri muriatis*, the sulphate of iron, and what is called in the Pharmacopœia, *ferri subcarbonas*, (little else than peroxide of iron,) are also among the useful chalybeates, while the *ferrum ammoniatum*, and its tincture, the new *vinum ferri*, and *ferrum tartarisatum*, and, above all, the *liquor ferri alcalini*, are preparations which we may safely leave upon the shelf.

Iron seems to act as a general diffusible tonic; and where it so agrees as to admit of being given in sufficient doses, it augments the appetite, takes off flabbiness of the muscular fibre, and is by some supposed to give a more florid hue to the blood, an opinion probably founded in error.

The cases best adapted for its exhibition are those of weak and languid habits, where the constitution is what is usually called *broken*, either by long-continued mental anxiety, excessive study, or bodily exertion beyond the strength, and gene-



rally after diseases which have necessarily received a very debilitating treatment, or which have left the body in a pallid and, as it were, flaccid state, very susceptible of fatigue, and of morbid actions in general. But it must be remembered that where the preparations of iron are used after active inflammatory diseases have been subdued by the lancet, they not unfrequently favour sudden accessions of inflammatory action, and are apt to induce a local form of the disease, or chronic inflammatory action. When, therefore, the habit, under such circumstances, shows any symptoms of returning fulness of vessels, where thirst and a white tongue are associated with headach, and where the pulse hardens, chalybeates may generally be said to be contra-indicated.

In some painful and obstinate nervous affections the preparations of iron in large doses have been found of service ; and in *tic douloureux*, Mr. Hutchinson says he has derived great benefit from the subcarbonate of iron given in doses of half a drachm to a drachm, twice or three times a day.

In certain stages of asthma, all the preparations of iron, but particularly the subcarbonate, appear, according to Dr. Bree<sup>1</sup>, eminently to lengthen the intermissions of the disease, by enabling the constitution to throw off gradually, but certainly, the causes of the morbid irritation in the stomach and in the lungs. In this view, he adds, it is entitled to a preference in the treatment of asthma, not for the cure of the paroxysm merely, but of asthma itself.

To children of weakly constitutions, especially where there is a tendency to rickets, and perhaps some of the milder appearances of scrofula, chalybeates may be given with well-grounded hope of advantage. The old *vinum ferri*, uncertain as it is in its strength, is useful in such cases ; but perhaps the best form of the remedy is the solution of tartarised iron, prepared according to the directions given by Mr. Phillips in his "Experimental Examination of the Pharmacopœia, 1811." This solution has but a slightly unpleasant taste, and may be rendered palatable by a little syrup.—(See *Ferrum Tartarissatum*.)

Where chalybeates nauseate, gripe, and purge, which they sometimes will do, proper counteracting remedies, especially aromatics and opiates, may be administered along with them. When given with astringent vegetable infusions, the inky appearance of the mixture is sometimes an objection to it, though not an important one. Quassia is one of the few bitters the

<sup>1</sup> Practical Inquiry into Disordered Respiration, &c. 5th edit., 1815, p. 366. I cannot coincide with Dr. Bree, in referring these beneficial effects to the evolution of oxygen from the oxide.

infusion of which is not discoloured by iron. Where they produce constipation, they must be combined with saline or aloetic purges, as the cases require.

The best form for the administration of chalybeates is certainly in solution, not but that they may sometimes be added with advantage to pills. The tincture of muriate of iron is a very effective compound of this class, and may be given in doses of from 5 to 15 or 20 drops twice a day. A glass of water is its best vehicle.

Official Preparations. *Ferri Sulphas. Ferrum tartarisatum. Ferri Carbonas. Liquor Ferri alcalini. Vinum Ferri. Ferrum ammoniatum. Tinct. Ferri ammoniat. Tinct. Ferri Muriatis. Mistura Ferri compos.*

**FILICIS RADIX**—*Aspidium Filix mas*<sup>1</sup>—*The Root of the male Fern.*—This is a common plant in woods and shady hedge banks, flowering about July. The leaves grow in circular tufts; they are bright-green and pinnate: the pinnæ are at first alternate, and increase in size from the base towards the middle: they then decrease towards the summit of the leaf, each being subdivided into linear parallel lobes, crenate on the edges. The fructification is like small dots on the back of each lobe, placed in two rows, and composed of a kidney-shaped involucre, and a pale-brown capsule, with an orange-coloured elastic ring. The root consists of matted fibres, forming a turfy head of a black colour, and scaly: when dried, it has a bitter flavour, accompanied by a mucilaginous sweetness, and has been long used in doses of about two drachms, as a vermifuge. It is customary to follow it up with a brisk purge of calomel and gamboge, which is probably the most effectual part of the treatment; but we have many better anthelmintics.

Geiger obtained from 100 parts of dried male fern root—

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Green fixed oil .....               | 6·9  |
| Resin .....                         | 4·1  |
| Saccharine and astringent matter... | 22·9 |
| Gum and saline substances .....     | 9·8  |
| Woody fibre, with some starch ..... | 56·3 |

100

Madame Nouffers' celebrated specific for the tape-worm consisted of 2 drachms of powdered fern-root, and a calomel and gamboge pill: the former was taken in a cup of water, early in the morning, and the pill was administered two hours afterwards, and was aided in its operation by a subsequent dose of salts. Nothing but broth was allowed during the day,

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 24. Ord. 1. Cryptogamia Filices. Nat. Ord. Filices.



and if the worm was not expelled, the same series of remedies were repeated on the following day.

**FOENICULI SEMINA**—*The Seeds of the Anethum Fœniculum*<sup>1</sup>, or common *Sweet Fennel*.—This is a biennial, not uncommon on chalky soils, flowering in July; it has a fusiform root; its stem is 3 or 4 feet high, erect, branching, leafy, and smooth. The leaves are alternate, tripinnate, composed of long, smooth, depending, linear leaflets, of a deep-green colour: the flowers are in large, terminal, flat umbels; the petals 5, ovate, emarginate, with their points turned inward; they are yellow; the filaments are also yellow, shorter than the petals, spreading, and bearing double anthers; the germen is inferior, covered by the nectary, and supporting 2 short styles, terminated by obtuse stigmas: the seeds are ovate, somewhat compressed, brown when ripe, three-ribbed, and encircled with a membranous margin. The seeds of fennel are generally imported from Italy; they are unnecessarily retained in the Pharmacopœia. They are a much-extolled carminative among old writers, but dill and caraway seeds being already in the *Materia Medica*, these may safely be rejected.

Official Preparation. *Aqua Fœniculi. Sp. Junip. compos. Syrupus Sennæ.*

**FUCUS VESICULOSUS**<sup>2</sup>—*Bladder Wrack*.—This is a common marine plant, bearing its fructification in the spring. The root is a black woody disk; the frond smooth, glossy, 1 to 4 feet long, and half an inch to an inch and a half broad, of a dark-olive colour, linear, and dichotomous; it has a blackish midrib; in the membranous part are thin spherical vesicles of air, varying in size from a pea to a hazel nut, and always close to the midrib; the fructification consists of compressed, turgid, solitary, or twin receptacles at the ends of the branches; roundish, perforated, and full of mucus. When this plant is dried, it becomes black and brittle, and when burnt to a coal or imperfect ash, furnishes a good substitute for burnt sponge. It has especially been exhibited in scrofulous affections, and in bronchocele, and probably derives its efficacy from occasionally containing a small portion of iodine.—(See *Spongia*.)

Fresh sea-weed is frequently applied with advantage to indolent glandular tumours; it should be often renewed, so as to keep up a gently stimulating action upon the skin.—(See *Sodæ Murias*.)

**GALBANI GUMMI RESINA**—*The Gum-resin of the Galbanum Officinale*<sup>3</sup>.—This is one of the family of fetid gums,

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Umbellatæ.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 24. Ord. 3. Cryptogamia Algæ. Nat. Ord. Algæ.

<sup>3</sup> I have not been able to obtain the recent description of this plant, given to the Linneæan Society by Mr. Don.

at the head of which, and possessing their concentrated virtues, stands assafoetida. Under that article we have adverted to their general uses, and have only to remark in regard to galbanum, that it scarcely has sufficient pretensions to retain its place in the present Materia Medica. It forms an ingredient in the compound pills and compound plaster of galbanum; but is probably never prescribed alone.

According to Meissner, 100 parts of galbanum (*in massis*) contain—

|                                      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Volatile oil .....                   | 3·3  |
| Resin .....                          | 65·8 |
| Gum .....                            | 22·6 |
| Bitter extract, with malic acid..... | 0·2  |
| Bassorin .....                       | 1·8  |
| Water .....                          | 2·8  |
| Impurities and loss .....            | 3·5  |

---

100

Officinal Preparation. *Pil. Galbani comp. Emp. Galb. comp.*

**GALLÆ—Gall Nuts.**—These excrescences are produced by the *cynips quercus folii* of Linnæus, a small insect which deposits its egg in the tender shoots of the *quercus infectoria*, a species of oak abundant in Asia Minor. When the maggot is hatched, it produces a morbid excrescence of the surrounding parts, and it ultimately eats its way out of the nidus thus formed, and makes its escape; but the galls should be gathered before this happens, for when the insect has decamped, they are less astringent and dense than before. The best galls are imported from Aleppo and Smyrna. Their taste is extremely astringent and somewhat bitter, their surface tubercular, and of a deep bluish-grey, or olive colour. Those which are light in weight and colour, and which, instead of breaking dense and resinous, are hollow and pulverulent, are of inferior quality. Their principal active and soluble ingredients are tan and gallic acid, and they stand at the head of the list of vegetable astringents, though they are rarely employed. In relaxation of the soft palate and uvula, a gargle composed as follows, is often more effectual than the generality of astringent applications:—

R Gallarum contusarum ʒij  
Aquæ bullientis fʒxij. infunde per horas quatuor et cola.

R Colati Infus. fʒvij.  
Spir. Vini Rectificat. fʒj.

M. ft. gargarisma frequenter utendum.

In that form of hæmorrhoids called *blind piles*, the following ointments have been used with singular advantage:—



R Pulveris Gallarum ʒj.  
Adipis præpar. ʒvij. M.

R Gallarum pulveris ʒj.  
Camphoræ ʒss.  
Tinctura Opii fʒij.  
Cerati ʒj.

M. fiant unguentum partibus affectis nocte maneque applicandum.

From 100 parts of Aleppo galls, Sir H. Davy obtained—

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Gallic acid .....             | 6·2   |
| Tannin .....                  | 26·0  |
| Gum .....                     | 2·4   |
| Calcareous and other salts .. | 2·4   |
| Woody fibre.....              | 63·0  |
|                               | <hr/> |
|                               | 100   |

### GENTIANÆ RADIX—*The Root of the Gentiana lutea*<sup>1</sup>.

—This species of gentian is abundant in the Swiss and Austrian Alps, and in the mountainous forests of many parts of Germany. The root is thick, long, and cylindrical. The lower leaves are petiolate, large, spear-shaped, stiff, with five veins on the back, and of a yellow-green colour; the leaves of the stem are concave, smooth, and egg-shaped, sessile, and almost embracing the stem, which is 2 or 3 feet high; the flowers are in whorls at the upper joints, large, yellow, and peduncled; the calyx is a membranous deciduous spathe, and bursts on the side when the flower opens. The corolla is divided into 5 or 8 narrow spreading segments, elliptical and speckled: the filaments are shorter than the corolla, and furnished with long, erect anthers; the germen is conical, crowned with two sessile, reflected stigmas, and becomes a conical capsule, containing many small seeds.

The roots are chiefly imported from Germany and France, in contorted pieces of various sizes, covered with a brownish wrinkled epidermis. When broken, they exhibit a brown bark, surrounding an interior yellow and more fibrous part; they should be leathery or tough and flexible, and free from worms. The taste of gentian is purely and intensely bitter, accompanied by a slight sweetness, which in fine samples is very manifest on touching the tongue with the broken surface of the root. Its active parts are readily soluble in alcohol and in water, having the properties of extractive matter.

Wherever simple bitters are indicated, gentian strongly recommends itself, and in the form of the compound infusion of

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Gentianæ.

the Pharmacopœia, conjoined with acids, alkalis, or saline aperients, as the case may require, it forms an elegant and effectual tonic. The usual forms in which it is given are the compound infusion and tincture. In dyspepsia, attended by acidity, the following draught may be taken twice a day, namely, at noon, and an hour before dinner :—

℞ Magnes. Carbonat. ℥j.  
 Infus. Gentian. compos. f3xj.  
 Tinctura Cardamomi compos. f3j. M.

Where dyspepsia is attended by nausea, and aversion to food, the following is a good form :—

℞ Infus. Rosæ compos.  
 Infus. Gentianæ compos. āā f3vij.  
 Tinct. Gentianæ compos. f3j.  
 Acid. Sulphur. dilut. mxx.  
 M. fiat haustus ter die sumendus.

To this half a drachm or a drachm of sulphate of magnesia may be added, where the bowels are costive.

Sometimes the extract of gentian is used in pills, but bitters do not appear to operate favourably under this form. The following, however, has been found a very useful remedy in cases of obstinate heartburn, with a gouty habit :—

℞ Extract. Gentianæ,  
 Ammonia Subcarbonat. āā 3j.  
 M. fiat pilul. xxiv. Sumantur duæ bis vel ter die.

According to Henry and Caventou, gentian contains—

Bitter extractive (Gentianin).  
 Saccharine matter.  
 Brown gum.  
 Fixed and a little volatile oil.  
 Substance like birdlime.  
 An organic acid and salts.  
 Woody fibre.

Official Preparations. *Tinctura Gentianæ comp.* *Infus. Gent. comp.* *Extract. Gentianæ.*

GLYCYRRHIZÆ RADIX—*The Root of the Glycyrrhiza glabro*<sup>1</sup>, or common *Liquorice*.—This plant is a native of the south of Europe, but abundantly cultivated for medical use, in the vicinity of London and elsewhere. It has a long, round, succulent, tough root, running to a considerable extent, brown externally, yellow within, and of a peculiar sweet taste. The stalks are erect, strong, herbaceous, striated, furnished with

<sup>1</sup> CL. 17. Ord. 4. Diadelphia Decandria. Nat. Ord. Papilionaceæ, Linn. Leguminosæ, Juss.



few branches, and 4 or 5 feet high; the leaves are pinnated, alternate, composed of several pairs, and 1 terminal pinna; the leaflets are ovate, obtuse, veined, of a pale-green, and stand upon short footstalks; the flowers are papilionaceous, purplish, and upon long spikes, arising from the axillæ of the leaves; the calyx is tubular, and divided into 2 narrow, pointed segments; the corolla consists of an ovate, lanceolate, obtuse, erect, concave vexillum, 2 oblong, obtuse alæ, and a shorter carina. The filaments are 10, 9 of which are united at the base, bearing simple, roundish anthers; the germen is short, with a tapering style and blunt stigma. The seeds are small, kidney-shaped, and produced in a pod, which is oblong, compressed, pointed, one-celled.

The root is sometimes added to bitter and nauseous infusions, with a view of covering their disagreeable flavour by its sweetness; it is particularly effectual in this way in respect to aloes: its principal consumption, however, is in the preparation of extract of liquorice, of which a large quantity is imported from the south of Europe, under the name of *Spanish Liquorice*; it is usually burnt, and otherwise carelessly prepared, being a very different article from the genuine English extract of the same root. The chief use of this extract is the same as that of the root, and as a demulcent in coughs and colds. Its principal component parts are a peculiar form of sugar (*glycyrrhizin*) and starch.

Official Preparations.—*Extractum Glycyrrhizæ. Decoct. Sarsaparillæ compos. Infusum Lini. Confectio Sennæ.*

**GRANATI CORTEX**—*The Bark of the Fruit of the Punica Granatum*<sup>1</sup>, or *Pomegranate*.—The pomegranate is a native of Spain and Italy, and flowers from June to September; it grows many feet in height, when in a favourable situation; it has a brownish bark, and is divided into many small branches, armed with spines: the leaves are oblong, pointed, veined, deep-green, and upon short footstalks; the flowers are large, scarlet, and stand at the ends of the young branches; the corolla is composed of 5 roundish, large, slender petals, with narrow claws, by which they are inserted into the calyx; the calyx is large, thick, fleshy, tubular, of a brownish-red colour, and divided at the extremity into 5 pointed segments; the filaments are numerous, short, bent inwards, furnished with yellow anthers, and attached to the calyx; the germen is round, and supports a simple style, of the length of the filaments and terminated by a globular stigma; the fruit is about the size of an orange, and crowned with the teeth of the calyx;

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 12. Ord. 1. Icosandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Myrtæ.

the rind is thick and tough, reddish externally, yellow within, filled with a red, succulent pulp, contained in transparent cellular membranes, and included in 9 cells, within which are also lodged numerous oblong, angular seeds.

The decoction or infusion of the bark of this fruit is a very powerful astringent, but it has nothing to recommend it in preference to galls, catechu, and several other similar articles of the *Materia Medica*. It is also employed as an injection in leucorrhœa, a gargle in relaxed sore throat, and a lotion in some cutaneous eruptions. In India the decoction is used as a remedy for tape-worm. The flowers are also astringent, and were formerly used under the name of *Balaustina Flowers*.

Davy found in 100 parts of pomegranate peel—

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Tannin .....        | 18·8  |
| Extractive.....     | 10·8  |
| Mucilage.....       | 17·1  |
| Resin.....          | 0·4   |
| Woody fibre .....   | 30·0  |
| Water and loss..... | 22·9  |
|                     | <hr/> |
|                     | 100   |

Reuss found a trace of gallic acid.

**GUAIACI RESINA ET LIGNUM**—*The Resin and the Wood of the Guaiacum officinale*<sup>1</sup>.—The guaiacum tree is a native of Jamaica, Hispaniola, and the warmer parts of South America. It grows to about 40 feet high, and 4 or 5 in circumference, with many divided knotted branches. The bark is grey and speckled, and upon the branches ash-coloured. The leaves are pinnated, consisting of 2 or 3 pairs of pinnæ, with short footstalks. The flowers grow in umbels, springing from the divisions of the smaller branches. The calyx consists of 5 leaves, which are concave, oblong, obtuse, spreading, unequal, and deciduous. The petals are 5, blue, elliptical, concave, and spreading; the stamens are erect and villous, with yellow hooked anthers; the germen is oval, with a short style and simple stigma: the capsule is subturbinate, on a short pedicel, smooth, pentagonous, and five-celled; the seeds are solitary, hard, and angular.

The wood is imported chiefly from Jamaica, and much esteemed, on account of its hardness, for turnery wares. In a short paper, published in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1806, I have shown that the substance usually called *resin of guaiacum*, though possessed of many of the characters of the resins, is, in other respects, distinct and peculiar, and that it

<sup>1</sup> *Cz.* 10. *Ord.* 1. Decandria Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Gruinales.



must be regarded as a body *sui generis*. Its most remarkable property is the change of colour which it undergoes when subjected to oxygenating agents. It is sometimes met with in tears, but its usual appearance is that of large fused masses with little smell and taste, brittle, and semi-transparent, and of a greenish-brown colour. The tint of its recent powder is pale grey, but by exposure to air and light it soon becomes of a dingy green, a change which Dr. Wollaston found was most speedily effected in the violet rays of the prismatic spectrum.

Guaiacum has long been esteemed a valuable remedy in chronic rheumatism, conjoined with diaphoretics and stimulants. The average dose is 15 grains three times a day, conjoined with nitre, or, if requisite, with antimonials and opiates. It is best given suspended by mucilage of gum arabic, in the form of a draught, or as an electuary with honey.

The *tinctura guaiaci ammoniata* is also a favourite composition in rheumatism. The following are formulæ for the exhibition of guaiacum :—

R Pulver. Resin. Guaiaci gr. xv. tere cum  
Mucilaginis Acaciæ 3j. et adde  
Potassæ Nitratis gr. v.  
Aquæ Cinnamom. f3x.

M. fiat haustus ter die sumendus.

R Pulveris Resinæ Guaiaci 3ij.  
—— Potassæ Nitratis 3j.  
Sulphuris Loti 3ss.  
Pulv. Zingiberis 3j.  
Mellis Despum. 3ij.

M. fiat electuarius; sumat coch. j. min. quater die.

R Tinct. Guaiaci Ammon.  
Mellis aa 3j., tere simul et adde  
Aquæ Pimentæ f3j.

M. fiat haustus ter die sumendus.

Combinations of guaiacum are at all times liable to change their colour, but this is especially the case where it is combined with the *spiritus ætheris nitrici*, and they are frequently prescribed together, forming a perfect vegetable cameleon, a circumstance which should be explained to the patient, who may otherwise be alarmed at the non-identity of his medicine.

The wood of guaiacum only derives its efficacy from the resinoid diffused through it. Its decoction was at one time considered as a specific against the venereal disease, but experience has annulled its pretensions, nor does it deserve any confidence in cutaneous affections, except as a part of a diaphoretic regimen.

Official Preparations. *Tinct. Guaiaci ammon.* *Decoct. Sarsap. comp.*  
*Pulv. Aloes comp.* *Mist. guaiaci.*

**HÆMATOXYLI LIGNUM**—*The Wood of the Hæmatoxylon Campechianum*<sup>1</sup>, commonly called *Logwood*. This tree is a native of South America, and thrives in perfection at Campeachy, in the Bay of Honduras. The trunk and branches are very crooked, and covered with a dark bark; the smaller ramifications are numerous and prickly; the leaves are pinnated, composed of 4 or 5 pairs, irregularly oval, obliquely-nerved, and obtusely sinuated at the top; the flowers grow in racemi; the calyx divides into 5 oblong, obtuse segments; the petals are 5, spreading obtusely, lance-shaped, and reddish-yellow; the stamina are tapering, unequal, shorter than the corolla, and the anthers small and oval; the style is nearly of the length of the stamens, and the germen becomes a long, double-valved pod, which contains many oblong, compressed seeds.

Logwood has a peculiar faint smell, and a sweet astringent taste; its chief consumption is as a dye-stuff. In the *Materia Medica* it ranks with the astringent tonics, and as such has been used in diarrhœa, dysentery, and dyspepsia. 20 grains of the extract may be given two or three times a day in an ounce and a half of chalk mixture. It frequently stains the stools of a deep blood-red, or purple colour. Chevreuil has described the principle upon which the colour of logwood depends, under the name of *hæmatin*<sup>2</sup>.

Official Preparation. *Extractum Hæmatoxyli*.

**HELENIIUM**—*The Root of the Inula Helenium*<sup>3</sup>, or *Elecampane*.—This plant, though a native of England, is usually cultivated in our gardens. Its root is perennial, large, thick, branched, brown externally and whitish within; the stalk is upright, round, striated, branched, hairy, and about 4 feet high; the leaves are large, ovate, reticularly veined, with a fleshy midrib, smooth on the upper surface and downy beneath; the flowers are large, yellow, compound, and terminate the stem and branches; the calyx is composed of several rows of strong, imbricated, ovate segments; the corolla consists of numerous florets of two kinds; those of the centre are regularly tubular, divided at the brim into 5 small segments, and are hermaphrodite, each containing 5 short filaments, with their anthers so united as to form a hollow cylinder and long germen, which support a slender style, furnished with a bifid stigma. The circumferential florets are female, and at the lower part tubular, but at the upper ligulated and cut at the

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 10. Ord. 1. Decandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Leguminosæ.

<sup>2</sup> Annales de Chimie, lxxxii. 128.

<sup>3</sup> Cl. 19. Ord. 2. Syngenesia Superflua. Nat. Ord. Corymbiferae.



extremity into three narrow teeth; the female part resembles that of the hermaphrodite florets; the seeds are solitary, striated, quadrangular, and furnished with a simple feather; the receptacle is flat and naked.

Elecampane root is a mere encumbrance to the *Materia Medica*, which no practitioner ever prescribes. It has been analysed by Rose, who extracted from it a peculiar vegetable principle, which has been called *Inulin*. A more detailed analysis of the root was afterwards published by Funke<sup>1</sup>.

According to John, 100 parts of the root contain—

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Camphor.....                            | 0·4  |
| Trace of volatile oil.....              | —    |
| Wax .....                               | 0·6  |
| Acrid resin .....                       | 1·7  |
| Bitter extractive.....                  | 36·7 |
| Gum .....                               | 4·5  |
| Albumen .....                           | 13·9 |
| Inulin .....                            | 36·7 |
| Woody fibre .....                       | 5·5  |
| Salts of potassa, lime, and magnesia. — | —    |

100

**HELLEBORI FŒTIDI FOLIA**—*The Leaves of the Helleborus fœtidus*<sup>2</sup>, or stinking Hellebore.—This indigenous perennial grows in shady places on chalky soils, and flowers about April; its root is small, contorted, and fibrous; its stem rises about 18 inches, and is round, strong, naked, subdivided into branches, and compressed at top; the leaves stand on long footstalks, are pedate, and deep-green; the leaflets are long, narrow, lanceolate, serrated, and generally 9 in number, 4 united at their bases on each side, and one terminal; the flowers numerous, terminal, pendent, roundish, and stand on peduncles: the petals are 5, oval, concave, persistent, pale-green, and their margins purplish; the stamina are the length of the petals; the anthers white; the germens 3 or more, becoming beaked pods containing round black seeds.

This dangerously cathartic and emetic remedy appears only to be retained in the list of *Materia Medica* as an anthelmintic, and who at the present day would think of using it as such?

**HELLEBORI NIGRI RADIX**—*The Root of the Helleborus niger*<sup>3</sup>,—*Black Hellebore, or Christmas Rose*.—The black hellebore is a native of Austria and Italy, and commonly cultivated as an ornament to our gardens: it flowers in Janu-

<sup>1</sup> *Annales de Chimie*, lxxxvi. 98.

<sup>2</sup> *Cl.* 13d. *Or.* 6. Polyandria Polygynia. *Nat. Ord.* Ranunculaceæ.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

ary. It has a perennial, rough, knotted root, black externally, whitish within, and sending off many strong, round, long fibres; the flower-stalks are erect, round, tapering, and reddish towards the bottom; the bracteal leaves supply the place of the calyx, and are oval, concave, and generally indented at top; the petals are 5, large, roundish, spreading, at first white, but afterwards reddish and greenish; the nectaries are about 8, tubulated, compressed, two-lipped, and greenish-yellow; the filaments are white, and the anthers yellow; the germens vary from 4 to 8, and the pods contain many oval, shining, blackish seeds; the leaves are compound, pedated, and stand upon long radical footstalks; the simple leaf is elliptical, smooth, and serrated at top.

The root of this plant is a drastic and dangerous remedy. It has been tried in maniacal affections, but in these and other cases, less virulent and more manageable and certain remedies of the same class are equally effective. It is very rarely, and ought never to be, used.

† Official Preparation. *Tinctura Hellebori Nigri*.

**HORDEI SEMINA**—*The Seed of the Hordeum Distichon*<sup>1</sup>—*Pearl Barley*.—Common is converted into pearl barley by a machine so constructed as to grind off the cuticle, and afterwards round the grain. Its decoction, or what is generally called *barley-water*, contains little else than starch, 100 parts of barley being composed of 80 of starch, 6 gluten and gum, 7 sugar, and 7 husk. In this analysis Proust's supposed peculiar principle in barley, which he has called *hordein*<sup>2</sup>, is included with the starch.

**HUMULI STROBILI**—*The Strobiles of the Humulus Lupulus*<sup>3</sup>—*Hops*.—The hop is an indigenous perennial, largely cultivated in this country for the use of the brewer. The strobiles are usually picked in August, and carefully dried in a peculiarly constructed kiln, during which process they lose about three-fourths in weight.

The root of the hop sends up several angular, flexible stems, which twine round the poles; the leaves are opposite, in pairs, petiolate, heart-shaped, entire, or lobed, and dark-green; the leaves and petioles are scabrous, and at the base of each leaf-stalk are two interfoliaceous, entire, reflected stipules; the flowers are axillary, and furnished with bractes; the male

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 3. Ord. 2. Triandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Gramineæ.

<sup>2</sup> Annales de Chimie et Physique, v. 337.

<sup>3</sup> Cl. 22. Ord. 5. Diœcia Pentandria. Nat. Ord. Scabridæ, Linn. Urticæ, Juss.



flowers are yellowish-white, in panicles, and dependent; the female flowers, which are on distinct plants, are in solitary strobiles, ovate, pendulous, composed of pale-green membranous scales, tubular, and two-flowered, each containing one round, flat, brown seed.

The peculiar fragrant and bitterness of hops resides chiefly in a pulverulent substance, which may be separated from them by the sieve, and which has been termed *lupulin*<sup>1</sup>. Their effect in covering the nauseous sweetness of wort, and preserving beer, is well known. By writers on the *Materia Medica* they are represented, but probably not on very sufficient grounds, as powerfully sedative and diuretic: it has even been asserted, that lying the head upon a pillow stuffed with hops, quiets the delirium of fever, and assuages the violent agitation of maniacal persons; all which may be believed by those who have been fortunate enough to witness such effects, but scarcely will be credited by those who have not had ocular proof. Upon the whole, the medical virtues of hops seem to have been extolled much beyond their merits; and if we allow them to be a slightly narcotic bitter, we grant them, perhaps, more than they deserve. As a direct and powerful sedative, they certainly are entitled to no confidence; and the *Materia Medica* abounds in tonics and bitters more effective than the preparations of hops, which it has been thought right to retain in the *Pharmacopœia*.

Official Preparations. *Extractum Humuli. Tinct. Humuli.*

**HYDRARGYRUM**—*Quicksilver, or Mercury*.—A brilliant white metal, fluid at ordinary temperatures, but solid at 39° below 0 of Fahrenheit's thermometer; its specific gravity is 13.545. In its pure or metallic state, this metal is inactive: it has sometimes been absurdly administered in cases of obstinate constipation, in doses of a pound or more, in the hope of forcing a passage by its weight. If the intestinal canal were a straight and regular tube, such a plan might in some possible cases succeed; but its folly is too apparent when we consider the contortions and windings, the ascents as well as the descents of the passage. Mercury was also once celebrated as an alterative, and was much used by the ladies in Charles II.'s reign, in doses of a small tea-spoonful night and morning, to beautify the complexion, remove freckles, and perform the usual functions of cosmetics. It is even said, that in those days the sweepings of the drawing-room were among the most profit-

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<sup>1</sup> This is usually known in the hop market under the term *condition*. According to Dr. Ives it contains tan, bitter extract, wax, and resin.—Phillip's *Annals of Philosophy*, i. 194.

able of the servants' perquisites, and that considerable quantities of second-hand mercury were thus collected.

The oxides, the chlorides, and the salts of mercury, are all more or less active, and they constitute a highly important class of compounds. Their chemical nature, and the methods of preparing them, will be adverted to under their respective heads in the Pharmacopœia: at present I shall limit myself to a very brief notice of their composition, dwelling principally upon their uses in medicine, and upon the indications which they are calculated to fulfil in disease.

When, or by whom, mercury was first introduced into pharmacy, is not very evident; but, after the importation of the venereal disease from America, it soon came into general use as a specific against that disorder, and has since been employed as a valuable remedy in a number of other complaints; in short, the uses of mercury in its various forms and combinations are so numerous, that it is not easy to treat of them without becoming diffuse, or entering into tiresome repetitions. To avoid this as much as possible, I shall consider the general action of its oxides and chlorides, and afterwards notice such of the salts as are useful in particular cases, concluding with a general view of the influence of mercury upon the system. For other details, the reader is referred to the second part of this work.

There are two oxides of mercury, the *black*, or *protoxide*, composed of 200 mercury + 8 oxygen; and the *red*, or *peroxide*, containing 200 mercury + 16 oxygen. Of these the former is among the most valuable preparations of the metal: it appears to be the active ingredient in the *pilulæ hydrargyri*, or *blue pill*; in the *hydrargyrum cum creta*; and in the *unguentum hydrargyri*, or *mercurial ointment*. In its pure state it was formerly called *Ethiops per se*, and should correspond to the *hydrargyri oxydum cinereum* of the Pharmacopœia. The latter, or red oxide of mercury, the *præcipitatum per se* of old pharmacy, is a virulent and dangerous remedy when taken internally; it is now therefore almost, if not quite, limited to external use.—(See *the Preparations of Mercury*.)

The effects of protoxide of mercury upon the system deserve particular attention. In doses of two or three grains twice or thrice a day, it sometimes operates upon the bowels, not perhaps directly as a purgative, but indirectly, as modifying or increasing the secretion of bile; and where, from deficiency or morbid state of this secretion, the bowels are inert; where the digestion is impaired, especially that part of the process of digestion carried on in the small intestines; where the



countenance is sallow, and the tongue furred of a morning to an unusual extent, a dose of the black oxide of mercury night and morning, for two or three days, will often set all to rights. If the remedy be persevered in, and especially, if its action upon the bowels be counteracted by opiates, it goes on to produce some febrile symptoms, a white tongue, a quickened pulse, and soreness of the gums, which become white and swollen, and the salivary glands especially partake of this stimulation, their secretion being notoriously and often excessively increased. This salivation and soreness of the gums may be kept under and modified, by reducing the dose of the mercurial ; and it should never be allowed to run to any excess, though it is necessary that it should exist to a certain extent, as a proof that the system is duly affected by the remedy. Where a course of mercury, as it is called, is required, a better form cannot be resorted to than the *pilula hydrargyri* ; it is certain in its effect, and it seldom affects the stomach and bowels when properly administered in such combinations as the particular case may require. Where, however, the alimentary canal will not bear this internal mercurial, its external application, in the form of ointment, rubbed in in quantities of from half a drachm to two drachms every night, or every other night, as the symptoms indicate, must be resorted to. This is a disagreeable and often unnecessary operation : and although mercurial friction used to be indiscriminately resorted to in almost all venereal cases, it is now frequently superseded by milder treatment, and by the internal use of the remedy. There are, however, cases, especially of pains in the bones, and nodes, both venereal and not venereal, which will yield to treatment by inunction, and in which mercury given internally is uncertain and ineffective.

It sometimes happens that salivation is obstinately resisted, and that large and frequently repeated doses of the protoxide fail to make the mouth sore ; but in such cases it will often be found that there is an excessive flow of urine, or that very abundant perspiration is induced, and these may be generally regarded as evacuations equivalent to salivation. Indeed, where salivation does take place, the last-mentioned secretions are commonly increased ; for mercury, in this form, seems to act as a general glandular stimulant.

In a single dose of from ten to fifteen or twenty grains, according to the habit of the patient, conjoined with a little rhubarb, or a small quantity of aloes, the *pilula hydrargyri* forms a good alterative purge, and repeated about once a week for two or three successive times, will seldom fail to cure that morbid state of bowels which is attended by white or clayey

motions, and by lassitude, drowsiness, or general inactivity of the system.

The red oxide of mercury is not calculated to fulfil any indication which cannot be attained by the protoxide, and is extremely liable to act virulently upon the stomach and bowels, sometimes in doses of a single grain only: we should, therefore, recommend its exclusion from internal use. Applied externally, in the form of ointment, it is useful as a stimulating application to venereal and other sores; but whether we use it, or the *hydrargyri nitrico-oxydum*, great care should be taken that they are reduced to a very impalpable powder: in this state they are sometimes sprinkled upon the sore.

There are two chlorides of mercury—the *protochloride*, or *calomel*, consists of 200 mercury + 36 chlorine; and the *perchloride*, or *corrosive sublimate*, is composed of 200 mercury + 72 chlorine. In the Pharmacopœia these compounds are improperly termed *submuriate* and *oxymuriate of mercury*.

*Calomel* is not unfrequently used as an antisyphilitic, in the same way as the protoxide of mercury; and more especially combined with opium, when it salivates without purging. But its principal use in British pharmacy is as a purge, conjoined with other aperients; and for this purpose it is administered in doses of from three to six grains, combined with or followed by senna, cathartic extract, rhubarb, or other laxatives. The most customary form is five grains of calomel, in a pill, at night; and a draught composed of infusion and tincture of senna, with some saline aperient, early in the morning: for this purpose the common *black dose* is an effective prescription:—

R Magnesiae Sulphatis ℥ij.  
 Infus. Sennae compos. f℥xiv.  
 Tincturae Sennae fʒij.  
 Olei Menthae Piper. ℥iij.

M. fiat haustus laxans.

This is followed by two or three copious motions, abounding in bile. In chronic hepatitis, in various glandular diseases, and in some cutaneous affections, calomel is celebrated as an alterative; and combined with diuretics, it singularly contributes to their activity. In these cases the usual dose is from a quarter of a grain to two grains, night and morning, modifying the dose, and that of the medicines combined with it, according to circumstances. Purgatives, including calomel, are also very effectual in a variety of febrile disorders; and in typhoid fevers they sometimes effect a surprising amelioration of the symptoms; but they must of course be administered, in such cases, with much caution, and under many limitations.



In those febrile affections of children which are symptomatic of a disturbed state of stomach and bowels, purges of calomel and rhubarb are almost always effectual in affording relief; they usually bring away a large quantity of offensive mucus from the bowels; and where this is the case, they should be repeated in intervals of two or three days, till the motions assume a more healthy aspect; but calomel purges are not to be indiscriminately and unnecessarily given to children as they often are.

*Corrosive sublimate*, or the perchloride of mercury, was more frequently employed, as an internal remedy, formerly than at present. If given incautiously, it is apt to bring on a variety of dyspeptic symptoms, attended by continued or spasmodic pain of the stomach, and by diarrhœa: these effects are usually remedied by opium; and such a combination is sometimes employed to excite salivation. Some difference of opinion has arisen respecting the antisyphilitic powers of corrosive sublimate; but the details of the discussions upon this subject are not very important, as no one would select corrosive sublimate for the exclusive cure of the venereal disease; not but that it is frequently an effectual adjunct to other mercurials, in the treatment of the flying pains and cutaneous eruptions which attend some forms of the disease.

The dose of corrosive sublimate, at the commencement, should not exceed one-eighth of a grain, and it is best administered in solution:—

R Hydrargyri Corrosiv. Sublim. gr. j.  
 Ammoniæ Muriatis gr. v.  
 Aquæ distillatæ f ʒj.  
 M. fiat solutio.

R Hujus Solutionis f ʒj.  
 Aquæ Pimentæ f ʒj.  
 M. fiat haustus bis die sumendus.

To the above, a few drops of the tincture of opium may be added, if the state of the bowels render it necessary.

In conjunction with decoction of bark and of sarsaparilla, and with other vegetable decoctions and infusions, corrosive sublimate is often given as an alterative: and although it is more or less decomposed in the generality of these compounds, it remains an effectual mercurial.

Applied externally, corrosive sublimate acts as a powerful caustic; but its solubility in water enables us to use it in any state of dilution, and to modify its strength according to the effects which it produces upon the ulcerated surface. It is sometimes employed for the relief of cutaneous eruptions, but

is apt to do more harm than good. *Gowland's lotion*, long celebrated in such cases, is a solution of corrosive sublimate in emulsion of bitter almonds, in the proportion of about a grain to an ounce. If applied in the form of ointment, great care should be taken to ensure the complete division and mixture of the sublimate, which is best effected by triturating it with twice its weight of muriate of ammonia and a few drops of water, then gradually adding the lard or ointment, and triturating the whole into an even mixture.

All these applications require to be used with much circumspection, especially upon delicate and irritable skins, where they sometimes excite erysipelatous inflammation, and a permanent redness of the part.

Calomel and corrosive sublimate are powerful engines in the hands of empirics. In quack remedies for worms, calomel is a leading ingredient, conjoined generally with some drastic purge. Corrosive sublimate is yet more mischievously employed in those antivenereal remedies which are recommended as containing no mercury: its solubility, the small dose in which it is active, and the facility with which its taste is concealed, are qualities which recommend it in these cases; nor can the chemist very easily detect it when thus disguised by syrups and other vegetable solutions.

The remaining mercurial preparations are not of sufficient importance to require any individual examination in this place.

In respect to the *modus operandi* of mercury, we know little or nothing; it has not been satisfactorily detected in the blood nor in the secretions; its effect upon the pulse is that of a decided stimulant, and as such it also operates upon the secretory and excretory organs in general.

Exclusive of the usual and common effects of mercury, we find that in particular constitutions, and indeed in all constitutions where mercury is improperly and incautiously used, it is sometimes accompanied by very peculiar and distressing symptoms. Pain in the bowels and purging commonly follow the use of mercury; but these sometimes run into a dysenteric affection, attended by tenesmus and typhoid fever. Sometimes, when least expected, a small quantity of mercury shall produce violent ptyalism; the salivary glands and tongue become swollen, the flow of saliva increases to an excessive height, and there is great wasting of flesh and loss of strength. In such a case, the treatment consists in keeping the patient in dry but cool and airy rooms, and the medicines to be employed are bark, acids, and astringents; we must at the same time guard carefully against the sudden



suppression of salivation, which is always attended by consequences more or less dangerous.

There are some few constitutions that can scarcely bear mercury in any form ; as soon as ptyalism commences, great depression of strength and spirits ensues, and there are frequent deep inspirations or sighings, attended by a very irregular pulse, and often by fainting : these symptoms are sometimes followed by a kind of ague in which the cold fit appears to predominate in some instances, and which in others assumes the character, after a few days, of an inflammatory remittent fever, but the pulse remains small and quick ; the stomach and bowels too are disordered ; the countenance fallen and expressive of mental misery ; there is a disinclination to all kind of exertion ; and in this state the patient has almost suddenly expired. Where such effects attend the exhibition of mercury, it is almost unnecessary to remark that the use of it must be immediately discontinued, whatever may be the state of the venereal symptoms ; a new disorder has been created by the mercury : the patient must be used very gently as to food and medicine ; and a milk diet and fresh air will commonly prove serviceable.

Much mischief is occasionally done by the incautious use of mercury in cases which are not venereal ; and instances are on record in which ulcerated sore throat, eruptive disorders, and osseous or ligamentous tumours, have not only been greatly aggravated by mercury, but in which salivation has been pushed to such an injurious extent as permanently to ruin the already debilitated constitution. Among the lower order of persons, who consult empirics and use their remedies, such cases are not unfrequent ; and when we recollect the analogies that sometimes subsist between the mercurial and the venereal disease, we shall not be surprised at the occasional occurrence of doubtful and difficult cases in regular practice.

**HYOSCYAMI FOLIA ET SEMINA**—*The Leaves and Seeds of the Hyoscyamus niger*<sup>1</sup>, or *Henbane*.—A common plant flowering in July. The root is biennial ; it is long, white, and fibrous ; the stalk is erect, round, woody, branched, and about two feet high ; the leaves are large, segmented, woolly, and embrace the stem at their base : the flowers are in clusters at the tops of the branches : they consist of a short tube with an expanded limb divided into 5 obtuse segments : they are yellow veined with purple : the calyx is divided into 5 short, downy, pointed segments ; the 5 filaments are taper-

<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 5. *Ord.* 1. Pentandria Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Luridæ *Linn.* : Solanææ. *Juss.*

ing, downy at the base, inserted in the tube of the corolla and furnished with large oblong anthers: the germen is roundish; the style slender, longer than the stamens, and terminated by a blunt stigma: the capsule is oval and divided into two cells which contain many small irregular brown seeds.

In their recent state, the leaves of henbane have a very peculiar nauseous odour, and a bitter taste, both of which qualities are much impaired by drying.

Henbane has been very long used as an anodyne, and it is a valuable remedy of that class; the extract obtained from the juice of the leaves is by far the best form in which it can be exhibited; it derives its activity, according to M. Brandes, from the presence of a peculiar salifiable base, which has been called *hyoscyamia*.

Henbane, when given in sufficient doses, operates as a decided narcotic, and in its general effects much resembles opium, but it does not constipate; on the contrary its tendency is rather to relax the bowels. It generally increases the flow of urine and the perspiration, and, in over-doses, brings on those symptoms which are occasioned by hemlock. The infusion, or solution of extract of henbane, applied to the eye, dilates the pupil in the same way but less certainly than belladonna. As the strength of the extract varies, the proper dose must be learned by trial, from 2 to 5 grains at bedtime generally proving effectual: some giddiness and nausea are apt to follow a full dose. The cases in which it is found useful are those in which opiates are indicated, and in which opium disagrees, either by producing headach, sickness, or costiveness. Sometimes it may be usefully combined with opium, as also with hemlock.

The combination of narcotics with purgatives is not generally commendable, for the activity of both is apt to be destroyed: to this, however, there are some exceptions, and the griping and irritating tendency of colocynth is found to be greatly mitigated by the addition of extract of hyoscyamus, whilst its energies as a purgative, though thus rendered more mild, are not less efficacious<sup>1</sup>. With opium the case is, as we might expect, very different, in consequence of its constipating tendency.

Independent of its more ordinary uses, I have found it of much service in allaying the irritation occasioned by red sand in the kidneys, the constipation produced by opium being in such cases sometimes very prejudicial: it may be administered

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<sup>1</sup> Upon the authority of Sir Henry Hallford, as referred to by Dr. Paris.—*Pharmacologia*.



with alkaline and diuretic remedies. In chronic rheumatism, henbane with mercurial alteratives have effected a cure. In its general action it appears to approach nearer to opium than any other article of the *Materia Medica*.

The seeds of henbane partake of the general properties of the herb, but there appears no adequate reason for encumbering the *Materia Medica* with them.

They contain according to Brandes:—

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Fixed oil partly soluble in alcohol .....                             | 24·2 |
| Concrete fatty matter .....   | 1·4  |
| Malate of hyoscyamia, with salts of magnesia, lime, and ammonia ..... | 6·3  |
| A trace of sugar .....  |      |
| Gum, bassorin, and starch .....                                       | 5·1  |
| Phytocolla .....  | 3·4  |
| Albumen .....   | 4·5  |
| Phosphate, sulphate, and muriate of potassa, lime and magnesia .....  | 3·4  |
| Water and loss.....   | 24·1 |
| Woody fibre .....   | 29·6 |

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100

Official Preparations. *Extr. Hyoscyam. Tinct. Hyoscyam.*

**JALAPÆ RADIX**—*The Root of the Convolvulus jalapa*<sup>1</sup>, or *Jalap*.—This species of convolvulus is named from Xalappa, a city of Mexico. It has a perennial root, egg-shaped and irregularly round, blackish exteriorly, milky within, and varying in size; sometimes so large as to weigh when fresh about 50lbs. The stalks are numerous, shrubby, slender, twisted, rising about ten feet, and twining upon its neighbours; the leaves are either heart-shaped or oblong, angular and pointed, smooth, bright green, and stand alternately upon long foot-stalks; the flowers are produced from short branches, sending off 2 peduncles, each of which supports a flower; the flower is large, bell-shaped, entire, plicated, reddish externally and purple within: the calyx consists of five oval leaves, concave, and pale green: the filaments are 5, slender and short, with large yellow anthers; the style is shorter than the stamens; the stigma is round, and the germen oval.

The root, which, when fresh, abounds in milky juice, is imported in irregular globular pieces, and their sections and slices; it should be dense and of a resinous fracture, exhibiting a brownish-grey interior, and a concentric arrangement of its layers. Its odour, especially when in powder, is very characteristic; its taste, exceedingly nauseous, accompanied by a sweetish bitterness. Those pieces which are light, spongy,

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Convolvuli.

pale coloured, worm eaten, and inodorous, should be rejected, as either injured or spurious.

According to Cadet de Gassicourt, 100 parts of dry select jalap root contain—

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Resin .....   | 10·0      |
| Gummy extractive .....  | 44·0      |
| Starch .....  | 2·5       |
| Albumen .....   | 2·5       |
| Phosphate, muriate, and carbonate of potassa and of lime...   | 4·5       |
| Water.....  | 5·0       |
| Woody fibre .....   | 29·0      |
| Colouring matter, sugar, trace of acetic acid, and loss ..... | 2·5       |
|   | <hr/> 100 |

The finest jalap is that which is most resinous ; and the gummy extractive is said to be nearly inert, except as a diuretic.

Jalap is the most valuable of the drastic purgatives, and the best form for administering it is in powder or tincture ; the extract is apt to be uncertain in its operation. In doses of from five to twenty grains of the powder, it usually produces several watery motions, commonly with some griping, and an increased flow of urine. Where the intestines are to be thoroughly evacuated, it may be united with other remedies of the same class, as with scammony, senna, &c.

R Pulveris Jalapæ gr. xv.

Calomel. gr. iij.

M. fiat pulvis ex quovis vehiculo idoneo sumendus.

R Pulver. Jalapæ ʒj.

Infusi Sennæ c. f ʒj.

Tinctur. Sennæ f ʒj.

M. fiat haustus purgans.

These are very effectual purges for evacuating the bowels of school-boys who have over-eaten themselves ; they sometimes nauseate, and even vomit, but enough usually remains behind to purge also.

The diuretic qualities of jalap are much increased by combining it with supertartrate of potassa ; and an electuary, composed as follows, is sometimes advantageous in dropsy :—

R Confectionis Sennæ ʒij.

Pulver. Jalapæ ʒj.

Potass. Supertart. Pulv. ʒss.

Syrup. Zingiber. ʒj.

M. sumat cochl. j. min. bis vel ter die.

Or the following draught may be taken two or three times a day :—



R Tincturæ Jalapæ f ʒij.  
 Aceti Scillæ ʒj.  
 Aquæ Menthæ Viridis f ʒiiss.  
 Fiat haustus.

Official Preparations. *Extract. Jalapæ. Tinctura Jalapæ.*

**IPECACUANHÆ RADIX**—*The Root of the Callicocca Ipecacuanha*<sup>1</sup>.—This important article of the *Materia Medica* is the produce of South America. The plant is perennial, and grows in moist shady places, in several provinces of the Brazils: it has a simple and somewhat branched root, furnished with short radicles; it is round, 3 or 4 inches long, thin, contorted, brownish-grey, and annulated with prominent unequal rough rings. The stem is procumbent at its base, 4 to 10 inches high, round, as thick as a small quill, smooth, brown, and leafy at the apex. After the first year it puts out runners, from which new stems arise. The inferior leaves are caducous; the others are sessile, opposite, spreading, ovate, pointed, 3 or 4 inches long, and less than 2 broad; deep-green on the upper, and whitish, downy, and veined, on the lower surface. The flowers are aggregated in a solitary head, on a round downy footstalk, terminating the stem, and surrounded by a 4-leaved involucre; the florets are sessile, interspersed with small bractes, and from 15 to 24 in number: the calyx is small, 5-toothed, superior and persistent: the corolla is monopetalous, the expansion shorter than the tube, and divided into 5 ovate acute segments: the filaments are short, capillary, inserted into the upper part of the tube, and support long, erect anthers; the germen is inferior, the style filiform, with 2 obtuse stigmas: the berry is purple, and contains 2 oval seeds.

Several varieties of ipecacuanha root are occasionally met with<sup>2</sup>, but that which is preferred is imported in bales from Rio Janeiro; it is in short wrinkled pieces, covered with a grey-brown epidermis, and having a central woody fibre, surrounded by a pale grey cortical part, which breaks short and resinous, and in which its virtues reside; the larger, therefore, its relative proportion the better. This root has a peculiar musty, nauseous odour; its taste is repulsive and bitter. It is difficultly reducible to powder, and the dust which it throws off whilst under the process of pulverisation is apt to excite great irritation of the respiratory organs: indeed some persons are so susceptible of this influence of ipecacuanha, that they can scarcely enter a room in which the drug is.

<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 5. *Ord.* 1. Pentandria Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Aggregatæ.

<sup>2</sup> Such as the white undulated ipecacuanha from the *Richardia Scabra*; the black striated, from *Psycotria Emetica*, and the ligneous, from *Viola Ipecacuanha*.

Ipecacuanha is calculated to fulfil a variety of purposes in physic. It is the only vegetable emetic to be depended upon; evacuating the stomach certainly and completely, without any material consequent debility, and being milder and safer in its operation than the generality of such medicines. For this purpose the dose is from 15 to 20 grains of the powdered root, in about an ounce of any aromatic water. In 10 or 15 minutes it nauseates, and when the stomach begins to be convulsed, and not before, draughts of warm water or chamomile tea should be swallowed to promote its operation, and thoroughly to wash out the contents of that viscus. If the powder be taken in a large quantity of liquid, or if warm water be too copiously swallowed immediately after the emetic, vomiting is apt to come on too rapidly, and the contents of the cardiac portion of the stomach only are thrown off, while the pyloric end escapes the evacuation. Where an emetic is administered for the mere purpose of emptying an overloaded stomach, we cannot do better than use the above; but, if exhibited at the commencement of fevers, with a view of blunting their violence, or cutting short their progress, and especially if given upon the accession of the cold stage of an intermittent, it is well to combine a grain of tartarised antimony with 15 of ipecacuanha; this extends the duration of the nausea and of the vomiting, and tends more decidedly to promote perspiration.

R Antimonii Tartarisati gr. j.  
 Pulveris Ipecacuanhæ gr. xv.  
 Aquæ Menthæ Viridis f 3xj.  
 Syrupi Croci f 3j.

Fiat haustus emeticus.

Such an emetic is indeed highly proper in the early stage of many diseases, and cannot be too strongly recommended at the commencement of inflammatory sore throat, of quinsey, and especially of laryngeal and tracheal inflammation.

Where there is decided fulness of the cerebral vessels, and in cases of hernia, of passive hæmorrhage, and in advanced pregnancy, it is scarcely necessary to remark that all emetics are obviously contra-indicated.

The taking of an emetic is sometimes followed by suppression of urine. Dr. Heberden mentions such a case in a young woman<sup>1</sup>, and I have seen one other, in which it appeared that scarcely any urine was secreted for nearly 24 hours after the vomiting.

In doses of from 1 to 3 grains, ipecacuanha may be so

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<sup>1</sup> Commentaries, 3d edit. p. 284.



managed as merely to nauseate, and in this way it has been found useful in certain obstinate diarrhœal and dysenteric affections. In still smaller doses, for instance a quarter of a grain to a grain every three or four hours, it proves diaphoretic and expectorant; and in the latter sense is a valuable remedy in inflammatory catarrhal affections, more especially of children, to whom the wine of ipecacuanha may be given in doses of from 5 to 20 drops. In these smaller doses, also, that is, barely to nauseate, it is found to lessen the impetus of the circulation, and hence is said to be of service in active hæmorrhage.

Conjoined with opium and nitre, or with saline aperients, as in the *pulvis ipecacuanhæ compositus*, or *Dover's powder*, ipecacuanha forms an important diaphoretic, and the properties of both medicines appear to be modified by combination; for the ipecacuanha may thus be given in larger doses without nauseating, and the opium is not so apt to constipate and produce headach and vertigo. Sometimes a very profuse perspiration is induced by the above formula, when aided by warm drinks; and it has thus gained deserved celebrity in acute, and some forms of chronic rheumatism, and in a variety of cases where relief is obtained by sweating. In respect to chronic rheumatism, it deserves to be recollected, that it is very frequently relieved by an emetic; a plan which has proved effectual in some long standing and very painful and obstinate cases.

A nauseating dose of ipecacuanha frequently adds to the activity of purgative medicines, and is occasionally conjoined with them where determination to the surface is also required.

R Pulveris Ipecacuanhæ gr. iij.

Pulveris Jalapæ gr. xv.

Calomelanos gr. ij.

Fiat pulvis ex quovis vehiculo idoneo sumendus.

The powder and the wine of ipecacuanha seem to be the only necessary forms of this drug for practical use. MM. Magendie and Pelletier have, however, succeeded in separating from ipecacuanha its active principle: it appears to be a peculiar vegetable substance, to which the term *emetina* may be applied. This substance may be procured in a state sufficiently pure for pharmaceutical use by the following process. Boil powdered ipecacuanha in twice its weight of sulphuric ether, in a distillatory apparatus, for a few hours, returning the ether which passes over into the retort as occasion may require. Having poured off and set aside this ethereal solution, which chiefly contains wax, digest the residuary ipecac-

uanha in four times its weight of highly-rectified alcohol; filter off this alcoholic solution, evaporate it very slowly to dryness, and macerate the alcoholic extract thus obtained in cold distilled water as long as it exerts any action; lastly, filter off this aqueous solution, and evaporate it carefully to dryness. The extract thus afforded is *emetine*, and the best ipecacuanha yields about 20 per cent. of it in this state. It is highly emetic, but cannot be safely depended upon as a substitute for ipecacuanha; although, therefore, with a heap of other novelties, it has a place in the Paris Pharmacopœia, it seems very doubtful whether it will ever be much used in British practice.

According to Pelletier, 100 parts of the brownish-grey ipecacuanha consist of—

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Emetin .....  | 16        |
| Fixed oil, with a trace of volatile oil, smelling like the root ... | 2         |
| Wax .....   | 6         |
| Gum .....   | 10        |
| Starch .....  | 42        |
| Woody fibre .....   | 20        |
| Trace of acid (probably Gallic) .....                               | —         |
| Loss .....  | 4         |
|   | <hr/> 100 |

The central woody fibre contained scarcely more than 1 per cent. of emetin, small portions of the other ingredients, and between 2 and 3 per cent. of inert extractive.

The reddish-brown variety of ipecacuanha (entire root) yielded

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Emetin .....                 | 14        |
| Fixed oil .....              | 2         |
| Gum .....                    | 16        |
| Starch .....                 | 18        |
| Woody fibre .....            | 48        |
| Trace of acid and loss ..... | 2         |
|                              | <hr/> 100 |

Official Preparations. *Vinum Ipecacuanhæ. Pulvis Ipecacuanhæ compositus.*

**JUNIPERI BACCÆ ET CACUMINA.** *The Berries and Tops of the Juniperus communis*<sup>1</sup>.—This is an indigenous evergreen shrub, growing on chalky hills and heaths, and flowering in May. The leaves are numerous, narrow, entire, sharp, channelled, and stand in ternaries. The catkins are axillary, sessile, solitary, ovate, small, and furnished with bractes: the male flowers yellow, and afterwards brown; the

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 22, Ord. 13, Diœcia Monadelphia. Nat. Ord. Coniferæ.



female, smaller and yellow-green. The berry is globular, blackish-purple with a glaucous bloom, filled with a brown pulp, and containing 3 seeds: they continue two years on the tree before they are quite ripe.

The market is chiefly supplied with juniper berries from Italy and Germany; the former being the larger and finer looking, but not always yielding so much oil as the latter. Their taste is sweet, mucilaginous, and warm, and aromatic; when distilled they yield sometimes as much as 3 or 4 per cent. of a fragrant volatile oil, possessing much of the flavour of oil of turpentine, with which the foreign oil juniper appears sometimes to be pretty copiously adulterated. Genuine *hollands* derives its flavour from juniper berries, but in English gin oil of turpentine is a common substitute.

According to Tromsdorf, 100 parts of juniper berries afford

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Volatile oil and wax .....                   | 5.0  |
| Resin .....                                  | 10.0 |
| Saccharine matter with acetate of lime ..... | 33.8 |
| Gum and vegetable salts .....                | 7.0  |
| Fibre .....                                  | 35.2 |
| Water .....                                  | 9.0  |

---

100

The diuretic and sudorific virtues of juniper berries and tops are to be ascribed solely to their essential oil, which is therefore sometimes combined with other diuretics, especially in the form of pills. The following, for instance, generally influence the secretion of the kidneys, and are therefore prescribed in that part of the treatment of anasarca and ascites which has for its object the increase of aqueous excretion through that channel:—

R Scillæ Rad. Pulv. gr. ij.  
 Pulv. Foliorum Digitalis gr. j,  
 Pilulæ Hydrargyri gr. vj.  
 Olibani Pulver. ʒss.  
 Olei Junipei ℥iv.

Fiat massa in pilulas quatuor dividenda, è quibus capiat ij  
 hora somni, superbibendo haustulum misturæ sequentis.

R Baccarum Juniperi contus. ʒvj.  
 Carui Semin. contus ʒij.  
 Aquæ ferventis oct. j.

Macera per horas tres et cola.

R Colaturæ fʒxij.  
 Spiritus Juniperi compositi fʒij.  
 Potassæ Nitrais ʒij.  
 Syrupi Scillæ fʒss.

Fiant mistura, de qua sumatur cyathus cum pilulis et  
 subinde. ]

**KINO.**— In the Pharmacopœia of 1809, kino is called the “*gum resin* of a nondescript African tree;” in that of 1815, it is termed the “*extract* of a nondescript African tree;” and in the recent edition of 1824, it is said to be the extract of the *pterocarpus erinacea*. The Edinburgh College informs us that it is obtained from the *eucalyptus resinifera*; the Dublin College pronounces its source to be the *butea frondosa*; and Dr. Duncan regards it as the extract of the *coccoloba urifera*. Mr. Thomson<sup>1</sup> has clearly proved that the varieties of kino known in commerce differ considerably from each other; yet Dr. Paris remarks, “that the plant which yields kino is at length satisfactorily proved to be the *pterocarpus erinacea*.” Such is the conflicting evidence concerning the origin of this drug.

Kino, as it usually occurs in the trade, is in small fragments, exhibiting a brilliant fracture, and of a very deep reddish-brown colour. It is slightly sweet, and very astringent when chewed. Water at 60° dissolves about half of it, and alcohol nearly two-thirds; the latter solution having a rich brown colour. The leading components of kino appear to be tan and extract, probably united with a portion of gum and resin.

According to Vauquelin 100 parts of African kino contain

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Tan and extractive ..... | 75    |
| Red gum .....            | 24    |
| Insoluble matter .....   | 1     |
|                          | <hr/> |
|                          | 100   |

There sometimes occurs in commerce a substance looking like kino, but tasteless, and nearly insoluble in water. The use of kino in pharmacy is exclusively as an astringent, in doses of from 10 to 20 or 30 grains of the powder, or 1 to 2 drachms of the tincture; but it is not more effective than catechu, and liable to vary in its composition; so that it is sparingly employed.

Speaking of the uses of opium, in union with astringents, in the treatment of pyrosis, Dr. Pemberton<sup>2</sup> observes, that kino is generally to be preferred, because, unless there is diarrhœa present it appears to have no tendency to confine the bowels. “In this drug,” therefore, he adds, “you have a medicine, which exerts its powers to restrain the discharge of the glands when they are secreting too much, without exerting any such powers over the glands when they are acting naturally.” And again, he remarks, “that it is not difficult to conceive that an astringent shall be able to contract a vessel, already

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<sup>1</sup> London Dispensatory, 1822, p. 347.

<sup>2</sup> On Diseases of the Abdominal Viscera, p. 108.



too much relaxed, to its natural standard; but that the same astringent shall be unable to contract it further. If this be allowed, we have the advantage of possessing an agent which shall restrain the unnatural secretion of a gland, but which shall cease to act when this purpose is obtained. Whether such be the true method of accounting for this peculiarity, or whether it may arise from the insolubility of kino, except in a quantity of fluid, I do not pretend to determine; but I can with confidence assert, that the effect of kino will be found such as I have above stated."

It appears to me that the greater number of the purer vegetable astringents possess this character; and that under the ordinary circumstances of a healthy state of stomach and bowels, their tendency is not to constipate: indeed, in their capacity of tonics, they often relieve habitual costiveness, apparently by increasing the muscular action of the alimentary canal.

**KRAMERIÆ RADIX**—*The root of the Krameria triandra*<sup>1</sup>, commonly called *Rhatany Root*.—It is the produce of a small shrub growing in Peru; the root is large, woody, branched; the stem, round, branched, woody, dark brown, and smooth; the leaves are small, long, ovate, entire, whitish and silky beneath; the flowers stand singly on the ends of the branches; the corolla has 4 petals, exteriorly silky, white, and deep red within; the fruit is globular, of the size of a strawberry.

Rhatany root abounds in astringent matter, and is said to be employed in the adulteration of Port wine. The tincture, which is the preparation chiefly used in medicine, has nothing to recommend it in preference to the other astringents, in which the list of the Materia Medica abounds. Peschier found a peculiar crystallisable acid in this root, which has been called *krameric acid*.

**LACTUCA SATIVA**<sup>2</sup>—*The Garden Lettuce*.—This commonly cultivated plant has a fibrous root, sending up a corymbose stem 2 to 3 feet high. Its general appearance and character are well known. When in flower it abounds in sap, which becomes milky by exposure to air, and dries into a brown substance, having in taste and smell some resemblance to opium, and being, like that drug, narcotic. The dose of this substance, which has been called *lactucarium*, is from 1 to 5 grains, in the form of pills; or from 10 to 60 drops of a tincture composed of 1 ounce of lactucarium and a pint of

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 3. Ord. 1. Triandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Polygalææ.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 19. Ord. 1. Syngenesia Æqualis. Nat. Ord. Cichoraceæ.

proof spirit. It is recommended to allay the irritating cough in phthisis pulmonalis, and may be tried as a substitute for opium and other narcotics. Mr. Thomson says that it contains morphia; half a drachm, however, has been given three times a day with very little effect.

Lettuce is perhaps the least indigestible of all the raw vegetables which are eaten at table, and is often taken with impunity by dyspeptic patients. In such cases it is well known that small doses of opium are frequently effectual in promoting digestion, and it is not improbable, as has been suggested by Dr. W. Philip<sup>1</sup>, that this may be referrible to its anodyne quality.

**LAVANDULÆ FLORES**—*The Flowers of the Lavandula spica.*<sup>2</sup>—This is a perennial shrub with a thick, fibrous, woody root; the stem is branched and 5 or 6 feet high: the bark of the younger shoots pale green, but rough and brown on the woody part; the leaves numerous, long, narrow, entire, and without footstalks; the flowers blue and in terminal spikes: the corolla is a cylindrical tube divided at the mouth into 2 lips, of which the uppermost is largest and cut into 2 segments; the lower expands downwards and is cut into 3; the filaments are 4, 2 long and 2 short, inclosed within the tube of the corolla, and support small simple anthers; in the place of a germen are 4 naked seeds from which the style proceeds; it is slender and furnished with a bilobated stigma.

Lavender flowers are rather to be regarded as a perfume than a medicine. The essential oil is obtained by distilling lavender flowers with water, in the proportion of about one pound from fifty to seventy pounds of the flowers; it is extremely fragrant; and, dissolved in alcohol, constitutes one of our most agreeable perfumes. Of course it ranks with the stimulants of the Materia Medica. In point of fragrance none of the foreign oil of lavender comes into competition with that distilled in England; and the plant is very abundantly cultivated in the vicinity of London for that purpose. The oil which passes first over has the highest and most perfect scent, and is frequently kept separate, and sold at a proportionate price. When the stalks and leaves are distilled with the flowers, the odour of the oil is considerably deteriorated, and this appears generally to be the case with the foreign oil.

Officinal Preparations.—*Oleum Lavandulæ. Spir. Lavand. Spiritus Lavandulæ Compos. Linim. Camphoræ Compos.*

<sup>1</sup> On Indigestion, 4th edit. p. 198.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 14. Ord. 1. Didynamia Gymnospermia. Nat. Ord. Verticillatæ.



**LAURI BACCÆ ET FOLIA**—*The Berries and Leaves of the Laurus nobilis*<sup>1</sup> or *Bay Tree*.—This handsome ever-green tree is a native of Italy and the south of Europe, and commonly cultivated in our gardens, rising from the height of a shrub to 20 or 30 feet, and flowering in April and May; the bark is smooth, olive, and grey; the leaves elliptical, pointed, smooth, veined, entire, shining green, and stand upon short channelled footstalks: the flowers are male and female on different plants, in short racemes, yellowish-white; the corolla is in both divided into 4 oval segments; the berry is superior, oval, fleshy, and dark purple.

The berries and leaves have an agreeable odour, and an aromatic and somewhat astringent taste, and contain a trace of Prussic acid; but there is nothing in them to deserve retention in our *Materia Medica*. 100 parts of the berries contain, according to Bonastre,

|                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Volatile oil and camphor .....     | 1·8  |
| Fixed oil and wax .....            | 19·9 |
| Resin .....                        | 1·6  |
| Starch and mucilage .....          | 49·5 |
| Saccharine and saline matter ..... | 1·7  |
| Fibre .....                        | 18·8 |
| Moisture .....                     | 6·4  |
| A trace of acid and loss .....     | ·3   |

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100

**LICHEN ISLANDICUS**<sup>2</sup>.—This perennial moss is abundant, in Iceland, and more or less common over the north of Europe; it grows 2 or 3 inches high; the frond is dry, coriaceous, lobed and notched; the surface smooth, shining and blistered; the margins are beset with minute rigid hairs; the colour yellowish or grey-brown.

The active components of *Iceland moss* are a bitter matter, and a peculiar modification of mucilage. The former may be separated by digestion in cold water, or by boiling for a few minutes; then, by a continued decoction, the mucilage is extracted. These ingredients render *Iceland moss* tonic and nutritive; but it appears to possess no other claims upon our attention, and certainly cannot be admitted as having any pretensions as a specific in phthisis pulmonalis.

The component parts of *Iceland moss*, according to the analysis of Berzelius, are as follow:—

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<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 9. *Ord.* 1. Enneandria Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Lauri.

<sup>2</sup> *Cl.* 24. *Ord.* 5. Cryptogamia Algæ. *Nat. Ord.* Algæ.

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Bitter extractive .....                                    | 3·0         |
| Lichen starch .....  | 44·6        |
| Sugar .....  | 3·6         |
| Gum .....  | 3·7         |
| Yellow extractive .....                                    | 7·0         |
| Green wax .....  | 1·6         |
| Tartar, tartrate of lime, and a little phosphate of lime . | 1·9         |
| Starchy fibre .....  | 36·2        |
| Trace of gallic acid .....                                 | —           |
|  | <hr/> 101·6 |

Official Preparation. *Decoctum Lichenis.*

**LIMONES**—*Lemons*—*The Fruit of the Citrus medica*<sup>1</sup>—**LIMONUM CORTEX**—*Lemon Peel*.—The lemon tree is a native of the upper parts of Asia, whence it was brought to Greece and afterwards to Italy; it is now abundantly cultivated in Spain and Portugal, and some parts of France, and is commonly known as an elegant ornamental shrub in our greenhouses. It closely resembles the orange tree, but its leaves are usually larger, slightly indented at the edges, and without the winged appendages at the footstalks; the flowers are large, and usually of a purple tint on the outer side: the other parts of inflorescence resemble those of the orange. The character of the fruit is well known.

Lemon juice is a powerful antiscorbutic, and, as an agreeable acid, is in common use in cooling drinks. The external rind of the fruit contains a particularly pleasant essential oil, which is a good adjunct to bitter and nauseous medicines. It should only be used fresh.

The following are the proportions of the ingredients in lemonade:—

Fresh lemon juice 4 ounces.  
 Fresh and very thin peel of lemon half an ounce.  
 White sugar 4 ounces.  
 Water 3 pints.

The water should be poured boiling upon the other ingredients, in a covered vessel, and strained off when cold: it may then be iced if necessary. A drachm of nitre is sometimes a good addition to the above, when it is used as common drink in fevers.

According to Proust, 100 parts of fresh lemon juice yield—

Citric acid..... 1·77  
 Malic acid, gum, and bitter extractive 0·72  
 Water .....97·51

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100

<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 18. *Ord.* 3. Polyadelphia Icosandria. *Nat. Ord.* Aurantiæ.



Official Preparations. *Infus. Aurant. compos. Infus. Gentianæ compos. Spiritus Ammoniacæ aromat. Syrupus Limonum.*

**LIMONUM OLEUM**—*The Essential Oil of the External Rind of the Lemon.*—This is largely prepared in Italy and other parts of the south of Europe. Its chief use is as a perfume, and it is a good addition to sulphurous and other disagreeably smelling ointments. Its flavour is infinitely less agreeable than that of lemon peel, for which therefore it cannot be used as a substitute. It frequently tastes and smells so strongly of turpentine, as to lead to a suspicion of adulteration with that volatile oil.

**LINUM CATHARTICUM**<sup>1</sup>—*Purging Flax.*—This is a common plant in dry pastures, flowering from June to August. The root is small, and sends up several erect, smooth stems, from 3 to 9 inches high, simple below, dichotomous above, and many-flowered; the leaves are opposite, lanceolate, entire, green above, and glaucous beneath; the flowers, which are small and white, are pendent before they open, and afterwards erect; the leaves of the calyx are pointed and serrated; the petals ovate, acute, and spreading; the filaments are united, and form a circle round the lower part of the germen, which is furnished with capitate stigmas; the seeds are glossy and yellow.

Two drachms of the dried herb to a pint of boiling water, afford an infusion of which 2 or 3 ounces is a dose, and which generally purges briskly; but it has nothing to recommend it in preference to numerous other articles of the *Materia Medica*, and is probably never used in regular practice. Why, therefore, is it retained in the *Pharmacopœia*?

**LINI USITATISSIMI SEMINA**—*The Seeds of the Linum usitatissimum*<sup>2</sup>, or *common Flax*—*Linseed.*—Flax is an indigenous annual; its stalk is erect, round, smooth, branched towards the top, and about a foot and a half high; the branches are simple, alternate, and terminated by the flowers, which are solitary, and of a sky-blue colour; the leaves are lanceolate, acute, sessile, smooth, glaucous, vertical, and alternately scattered over the stalk and branches; the calyx is divided into 5 semilanceolate segments, pointed and fringed with hairs; the corolla is funnel-shaped, consisting of 5 petals, which are large, obovate, striated, and minutely scalloped at the extremities; the 5 filaments are tapering, erect, about the length of the

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 5. Pentandria Pentagynia. Nat. Ord. Grinales, Linn. Caryophyllæ, Juss.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

calyx, united at the base, and crowned with simple anthers; the germen is oval; the 5 styles are filiform, erect, of the length of the filaments, and furnished with blunt stigmata; the capsule is globular, 5-valved, and 10-celled; the seeds are shining, solitary, flattish, and oval.

The seeds abound in mucilage and fixed oil; hence, when powdered, they form an excellent poultice; but the *linseed meal* in common use is the powdered cake remaining after the expression of the oil, an ingredient of much consequence in a cataplasm. The mucilage is easily extracted by boiling water, and is sometimes used as a demulcent or vehicle for other remedies.

L. Meier obtained from 100 parts of linseed—

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Fixed oil .....   | 11·27 |
| Wax .....   | 0·15  |
| Resin and colouring matter .....  | 2·90  |
| Mucilage, a trace of acetic acid, and<br>acetic, sulphuric, phosphoric, and<br>muriatic salts ..... | 15·12 |
| Astringent and yellow extractive...   | 1·91  |
| Sweet extractive, with malic acid and<br>malates .....  | 10·88 |
| Gum, with lime .....  | 6·15  |
| Starch .....  | 1·48  |
| Albumen .....   | 2·78  |
| Gluten .....  | 2·93  |
| Husks and emulsin .....   | 43·43 |

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100

**MAGNESIÆ SUBCARBONAS.**—The substance here called *Subcarbonate of Magnesia*, is, in fact, an hydrated carbonate of magnesia, as will be shewn when treating of its preparation, for it has a place in the present Pharmacopœia, both in the *Materia Medica* and among the preparations and compounds; its chemical properties, and the methods of preparing it, will be described under the latter head. It is usually found in the shops in the form of a light white powder, tasteless and inodorous. In doses of from 20 grains to 1 drachm, it has long been employed in medicine as an effectual neutraliser of acid in the stomach, and as operating at the same time gently upon the bowels; its activity as an aperient depends, however, very much upon the acid and other matters with which it meets in the *primæ viæ*. In the febrile affections which attend dentition, and in the aphthous fever of children, magnesia and saline remedies are often effectual in allaying the symptoms.

There is no application of magnesia more important than in



cases of *uric or red sand*; those cases in which the alkalies are generally used, but in which they frequently disagree or fail. It may here be administered in doses of 20 or 30 grains twice or three times a day, and except it has gone to a great height, or has continued so long as to have become, as it were, habitual, it will usually check the increased secretion of uric acid; the red deposit in the urine becomes much diminished, or altogether disappears, and the irritation of the kidneys is proportionately relieved. It must not be forgotten, that in cases of *phosphoric*, or *white sand*, magnesia and other alkaline or antacid medicines are mischievous. In all cases of the continued administration of magnesia, its tendency to lodge and accumulate in the bowels must be prevented by the occasional use of aperients; for cases have occurred in which very serious mischief has resulted from such accumulation.

Small doses of carbonated magnesia are often effectual in cutaneous eruptions, and especially in those breakings out of pimples about the chin, nose, and forehead, which are symptomatic of acidity in the stomach.

Magnesia may be administered in water or milk, in any aromatic water, or conjoined with bitters. The latter are proper in dyspeptic cases, and a little compound spirit of ammonia is frequently a useful adjunct.

R Magnes. Subcarbonatis ʒss.  
 Infus. Gentianæ compos. ʒx.  
 Spirit. Ammoniac compos. ʒss.  
 M. fiat haustus, ante prandium et vesperi sumendus.

In calculous affections depending upon excess of uric or other acid, magnesia may be given in any of the above vehicles, or we may use its solution in carbonated water, which is manufactured by several of the soda-water makers, and sold under the name of *aërated magnesia water*, a pint of which, containing a drachm of magnesia, or more if required, may be taken daily.

The dose of pure magnesia may be about one-third less than that of the carbonate; it is given, in other respects, in the same way: it is only to be preferred where the carbonate creates flatulency.

Citrate of magnesia, extemporaneously prescribed, is by no means a disagreeable aperient, especially when a little excess of lemon juice is used.

R Magnesiac Subcarbonatis ʒj.  
 Succ Limonum recentis fʒiij.  
 Syrupi Tolutani,  
 Spiritus Myristicæ, aa fʒj.  
 Aquæ distillatæ, fʒix.  
 Fiat haustus.

This draught may be rendered more active, though less pleasant, by the addition of two drachms of sulphate of magnesia: it then forms what is sometimes technically called the *white dose*.

**MAGNESIÆ SULPHAS**—*Sulphate of Magnesia*—*Epsom Salt*—*bitter purging Salt*.—This is the most generally used, and the best of the saline aperients. In doses of from half an ounce to an ounce of the crystallised salt, it proves actively purgative, especially if taken in a sufficient quantity of liquid; and in smaller doses, repeated two or three times a day, it may be conveniently given with tonics, to keep up a gentle action upon the bowels. It admits of being blended with magnesia or its carbonate, and acids may also be united with it; indeed one of the commonest and most elegant vehicles for Epsom salt is the infusion of roses. Infusion of cascarrilla, and infusion of gentian, with or without the addition of dilute sulphuric acid, may also be used; and these bitter\* medicines cover, in a considerable degree, the more nauseous and unpleasant bitterness of the salt. Neither ammonia nor carbonate of ammonia precipitate the magnesia from this salt under common circumstances; their preparations, therefore, may be blended with it; and where spasmodic pains and nausea follow its use, they are often prevented by the addition of half a drachm of compound spirit of ammonia.

If it be desired merely to evacuate and wash out the *primæ viæ*, 4 or 6 drachms of sulphate of magnesia, taken in a large half pint of warm water, early in the morning, generally proves effectual; two or three copious watery motions follow. But where the bowels are loaded with viscid mucus, such a purgative, although operating very freely, is far from cleansing them; and in such cases recourse must be had to a preliminary dose of calomel and cathartic extract, or some purge of a more searching description; and the saline purgative must be aided by others, as in the common *black dose*:—

℞ Magnesiæ Sulphatis ℥ss.  
 Infusi Sennæ compos. f ℥iiss.  
 Tincturæ Sennæ,  
 Syrupi Zingiberis, āā f ℥j.  
 Spiritūs Ammoniæ compos. f ℥ss.

Fiat haustus purgans.

It by no means follows that the bowels have been *emptied* because a dose of salts has apparently performed its full duty; it may leave much offending matter behind, and symptoms may not subside, as far as they are connected with such a residuum. Thus it is, that the bowels are often drenched with



mineral saline waters, which, though very active, are quite ineffectual in the relief of disorders that are presently cured by other purgatives, or by judicious combinations of them with saline aperients.

Sulphate of magnesia, and nearly all other saline purgatives, are in some persons apt to excite pain, and very troublesome flatulency of the stomach and bowels; an effect generally remedied, but not always, by combination with aromatics, spirituous stimulants, and volatile alkali.

It deserves notice, that very small doses of this salt, especially when conjoined with bitters, are effectively aperient in some habits subject to costiveness; it is generally necessary to precede its use in this way by a more active dose, and then the following may be given daily, at noon, or a couple of hours before dinner:—

R Magnesiæ Sulphatis ʒss.  
 Infus. Rosæ compos.  
 Infus. Gentianæ compos. aa f ʒvj.  
 Acid. Sulphurici diluti ℥x.  
 Syrup. Zingiberis f ʒj.

M. fiat haustus.

**MALVA**—*The Mallow*—*Malva sylvestris*<sup>1</sup>.—The mallow is a common indigenous perennial; it has a whitish, fusiform, branching root; the stem erect, branched, round, hairy, and many-flowered; the leaves alternate, petiolate, cordate, divided into 7 lobes, somewhat rough and crenate. There are 2 stipulas at the base of each footstalk; the flowers stand on slender, hairy peduncles; they are large, composed of 5 inversely-cordate purple petals, three times longer than the calyx, which is hispid; the capsules are 10 to 15 in number, of a rounded kidney form; the seeds are kidney-shaped, ash-coloured, and furnished with an arillus which opens inwards.

Mallow is a useless mucilaginous herb.

Official Preparation. *Decoctum Malvæ compos.*

**MANNA**—*The concrete Juice of the Fraxinus Ornus*<sup>2</sup>—a species of ash, native in the south of Europe, and especially common in Calabria and Sicily. This tree is covered with a grey bark; the young shoots produce the leaves, which are pinnate, opposite, and consist of several pairs of pinnæ, terminated by an odd one; pointed, serrated, veined, standing

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 16. Ord. 6. Monadelphia Polyandria. Nat. Ord. Malvaceæ.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 23. Ord. 2. Polygamia Diœcia. Nat. Ord. Sepiariæ, Linn. Jasmineæ, Juss.

upon footstalks, of an oblong shape, and bright-green colour; the flowers grow in thick branched spikes, and open in May or June; they are supra-decompound, opposite, and without bractes; the segments of the calyx are ovate, pointed, and nearly equal; the petals oblong and linear, obtuse, entire, attenuated at the base, spreading, twice the length of the calyx, and of a white colour; the filaments are 2, spreading, white, smooth, and bearing yellow incumbent anthers; the germen is small, oval, and smooth, with a short straight style, crowned with a bifid stigma. The capsules droop, are lanceolate, notched, compressed, and bilocular at the base; one cell is generally abortive, and the other contains a cylindrical brown seed.

From this tree manna exudes spontaneously in dry and warm weather, and concretes upon the bark; but the manna we usually meet with, in long, flaky, and brownish or buff-coloured pieces, is procured by incision. Several varieties of manna occur in commerce; the purest, and that which ought only to be used, is called *flake manna*; the others are in smaller fragments, mixed abundantly with all kinds of impurities, and often, it is said, adulterated with sugar, honey, scammony, and other analogous articles. Fine manna is soft, and somewhat adhesive; its texture generally appears granular, but it also presents fasciculi of acicular crystals: its odour is slightly disagreeable; its taste sweet and nauseous.

Manna has now fallen much into disuse, and is chiefly employed in doses of a drachm or two, as a mild and sweet aperient for children. In large doses it is apt to gripe and inflate, without purging, and scarcely proves active with adults in a quantity less than 2 ounces.

The following aperient mixture, however, is occasionally ordered, and is a favourite with some practitioners:—

R Sodæ Sulphatis,  
Mannæ opt. āā ℥j. solve, leni calore, in  
Aquæ Menthæ viridis f ℥vij.  
Tincturæ Sennæ f ℥j.

Fiat mistura laxans, cujus sit dosis cochlearia quatuor.

In some inflammatory diseases, especially those of the kidneys and bladder, where the bowels have been evacuated by a full dose of castor oil, the following is sometimes used to keep up a gentle aperient action:—

R Olei Amygdalæ,  
Olei Ricini,  
Mannæ optimæ, āā ℥j.  
Aquæ Rosæ, ℥x.

M. fiat haustus, sextâ quâque horâ sumendus.



According to Bucholz, flake manna consists of—

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Manna sugar .....   | 60.0      |
| Uncrystallisable sugar and purgative }<br>principle ..... | 5.5       |
| Gum .....   | 2.3       |
| Viscid matter (gluten?).....                              | 6.2       |
| Water and loss.....                                       | 32.0      |
|   | <hr/> 100 |

**MARMOR ALBUM**—*White Marble*—is not quite properly inserted in the list of *Materia Medica*; it is a useful source of carbonic acid, and is sometimes employed for other purposes in the pharmaceutical laboratory; but it is never medicinally administered. Its composition resembles that of *chalk*, (see *Creta*,) being composed of 28 lime and 22 carbonic acid.

**MARRUBIUM**—*The Marrubium vulgare*<sup>1</sup>, or *white Horehound*.—This is an indigenous plant, growing upon hedge and rubbish banks; it flowers in June: it has a perennial, fibrous root; the stalks are upright, strong, square, downy, and about 18 inches high; the leaves are oblong, serrated, veined, wrinkled, hoary, and stand in pairs upon thick, broad footstalks: the flowers are white, and produced in whorls at the footstalks of the leaves; the calyx is tubular, and divided at the mouth into 10 narrow segments, hooked at the end; the corolla is monopetalous, gaping, compressed, consisting of a cylindrical tube, opening at the mouth into two lips; the upper lip is narrow and notched, the under lip is broader, reflected, and divided into 3 segments: the middle one is broad, and slightly scalloped at the end, the lateral ones are lanciform and short; the filaments are 2 long and 2 short, supplied with simple anthers, which are concealed in the tube; the germen is divided into 4 parts, from which issues a slender style, furnished with a cloven stigma; the seeds are 4, of an oblong shape.

Horehound is slightly aromatic and bitter, but does not deserve to be retained in the modern *Materia Medica*.

**MASTICHE**.—This is the resinoid exudation of the *Pistacia Lentiscus*<sup>2</sup>.—This tree is a native of the south of Europe and the Levant; it is about a foot in diameter, and 10 or 12 high, covered with a smooth, brown bark, and sending off many branches towards the top; the leaves are pinnated, consisting of regular pairs of narrow, ovate, opposite pinnæ, closely at-

<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 14. *Ord.* 1. *Didynamia Gymnospermia*.. *Nat. Ord.* *Labiata*æ.

<sup>2</sup> *Cl.* 22. *Ord.* 5. *Dicecia Pentandria*. *Nat. Ord.* *Terebintaceæ*.

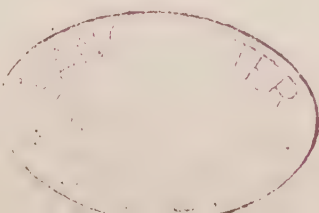
tached to the common footstalk, which has a narrow foliaceous expansion; the male flowers are placed in an open catkin; the calyx is divided into 5 small ovate segments; the filaments are 5, and short; the anthers are large, brown, erect, and quadrangular; the female flowers, like the male, have no corolla, and are placed upon the common peduncle in alternate order; the calyx consists of 3 small, squamous segments; the germen is oval, and supports 2 or 3 styles, terminated by reflexed, clubbed stigmata; the fruit is of the drupous kind, and contains a smooth, oval nut.

Mastic is chiefly exported from the island of Chios, and its principal consumption is among varnish-makers; about three-fourths of it are soluble in alcohol, and have the properties of a brilliant, brittle, and colourless resin; a viscid and elastic matter remains, in some of its properties not unlike caoutchouc—to this is owing the toughness which mastic assumes when chewed, and which renders it useful for stopping hollow teeth. The real medical virtues of mastic are very insignificant, but it is sometimes a good adjunct to pills: it envelopes their active matter, and thus renders them less immediately soluble in the stomach, and consequently more progressive in their operation. Upon this principle it forms an ingredient in the prescription at page 19.

MEL—*Honey*.—With some persons honey proves a tolerably active aperient, but its chief medical use is a vehicle for other remedies, or a means of blending with and suspending insoluble substances in water.—(See *Tinctura Guaiaci Ammoniata*.)

MENTHA PIPERITA<sup>1</sup>—*Peppermint*.—This indigenous perennial is abundantly cultivated in the neighbourhood of London for medical use. Its root is perennial, creeping, and fibrous; the stems are erect, square, jointed, striated, branched at top, and about 2 feet high: the leaves are ovate, serrated, pointed, nerved, dark-green, and stand in pairs upon footstalks; the flowers are small, purple, and produced in terminal spikes, separated into clusters: the calyx is tubular, persistent, reddish, striated, hairy, and divided at the brim into 5 small pointed segments: the tubular corolla is divided at the limb into four segments, of which the uppermost is the broadest, and notched at the apex: the filaments are tapering, and furnished with roundish anthers; the germen is divided into 4 parts, supporting a slender, erect style, which is longer than the corolla, and terminated by a cloven stigma: the seeds are 4, small, and lodged in the calyx.

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 14. Ord. 1. Didynamia Gymnospermia. Nat. Ord. Verticillatæ, Linn. Labiatæ, Juss.





The odour of peppermint is not disagreeable; its taste is pungent, leaving an impression of coldness upon the tongue. By distilling either the dry or fresh herb with water, a considerable portion of a very odorous and pungent oil is obtained: its proportion varies exceedingly; in a warm, dry, and favourable season, a great distiller of the oil, near London, informs me that the produce of oil from a given quantity of the fresh herb is double that which it yields in a wet and cold season. The largest produce is 3 drachms and a half of oil from 2 pounds of fresh peppermint, and the smallest, about a drachm and a half from the same quantity. The quality of this oil is also very variable as to taste and odour, but it frequently improves considerably by keeping. There is a variety of peppermint, the foliage of which has a darker hue than the *green* herb commonly cultivated, and its essential oil always partakes of the flavour of pennyroyal, often to such an extent as leads to a suspicion of mixture or adulteration.

Peppermint-water is a useful warm vehicle for aperients, and for remedies intended to relieve flatulency, attended by spasmodic pain of the bowels. A drop or two of the oil is often added to purging pills with the same intention; and its solution in alcohol is a well-known dram.

Officinal Preparations. *Aqua Menthæ Piper. Spiritus Menthæ Piperitæ. Oleum Menth. Pip.*

**MENTHA VIRIDIS.**—This indigenous plant, commonly cultivated in our gardens for culinary use, flowers in August. It has a creeping, fibrous, perennial root: the stems are square, hollow, erect, branched, and about 2 feet high: the leaves are large, elliptical, serrated, pointed, bright green, and placed in pairs close to the stem, or upon very short footstalks. The flowers are small, purplish, and produced in terminal spikes: the filaments are longer than the corolla: in other respects the flowers resemble those of peppermint.

The distilled water and essential oil of this species of mint are used in the same way as those from peppermint. According to several writers on the *Materia Medica*, this variety of mint only yields one five-hundredth of its weight of essential oil: like other aromatic herbs, however, it varies extremely in this respect.

Officinal Preparations. *Aqua Menthæ vir. Spiritus Menthæ viridis. Oleum Menthæ viridis.*

**MENYANTHES.**—*Menyanthes trifoliata*<sup>1</sup>, *Buckbean*, or *Water Trefoil*.—This is a common plant, growing in marshes

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Preciæ, Linn. Lysimachia, Juss.

and ponds, and producing its flowers in an open terminal spike, about the end of June. The stalk is 8 or 10 inches high; the root is perennial, creeping, jointed, and filamentous: the leaves are ternate, and the petals either white or rose colour on the outside, and fringed within.

The leaves of this plant are said to be diuretic and purgative; they are also bitter. The dried leaves have been given in powder, in doses of 20 or 30 grains, in intermittent fevers, in chronic rheumatism, and in some cutaneous disorders: it is, however, an article of uncertain efficacy, and may very well be dispensed with.

**MEZEREI CORTEX**—*The Bark of the Daphne Mezereum*<sup>1</sup>.—This indigenous plant is well known as an ornamental shrub in our gardens. It is usually 4 or 5 feet high, and branched: the bark is smooth and grey; the root fibrous, and covered with smooth, olive-coloured bark: the leaves are few, tender, lance-shaped, sessile, deciduous, and appear after the flowers are expanded, at the end of the branches. The flowers surround the branches in clusters; they are sessile, monopetalous, tubular, and the limb is divided into 4 oval, spreading segments of a pink or purple colour: the stamina are 8, alternately shorter, and concealed within the tube of the corolla; the style is short, the stigma flat, and the germen, which is oval, becomes a red berry, containing a round seed.

The bark of mezereon contains a very acrid sap, which irritates and produces a serous discharge when applied to the skin. The fruit is also very acrid and poisonous; and unfortunately its tempting appearance is such as sometimes to induce children to swallow it; in which event an emetic should be given as soon as possible, followed by demulcent drinks. Vauquelin obtained a peculiar principle from this plant, which he has called *Daphnin*.

Infusions and decoctions of mezereon of bark have been recommended in chronic rheumatism, in some cutaneous disorders, and in certain venereal affections; but it is a remedy much too uncertain to merit the eulogies that have been bestowed upon it.

Official Preparation.—*Decoct. Sarsaparillæ comp.*

**MORI BACCÆ**—*The Fruit of the Morus nigra*<sup>2</sup>—*Mulberries*.—The mulberry tree is said to be a native of Persia: it is abundantly cultivated over the greater part of Europe, flowering in June, and ripening its fruit in September. Its

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 8. Ord. 1. Octandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Thymelææ.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 21. Ord. 4. Monœcia tetrandria. Nat. Ord. Urticæ.



leaves, which are numerous, and on short footstalks, are about 3 inches in length and breadth, cordated, serrated, and veined, rough, and deep green on the upper surface, and paler beneath. The male flowers are on the same tree as the female; they are in close roundish catkins, composed of caducous florets, which consist of 4 concave, oval, erect, calycinal leaves, inclosing 4 filaments, bearing simple anthers. The female flowers contain a roundish germen, crowned with 2 styles, and simple stigmas, inclosed in a calyx of 4 ovate, concave, erect leaves; which, after flowering, enlarge, and become juiced and red, investing the seed. Many of these congregated on one peduncle form the compound berry.

The mulberry owes its acidity to tartaric acid: it is a very grateful fruit, forming the basis of an elegant syrup, but very liable to ferment.

Official Preparation. *Syrupus Mori.*

**MOSCHUS**—*A peculiar concrete substance, the produce of the Moschus Moschiferus, or Musk Deer.*—This animal inhabits the mountains of Eastern Asia, especially the Himalayan chain. Behind the navel is a bag which, in the adult animal, is filled with musk. These bags are imported from China, and, in inferior perfection, from Bengal and Russia. They are covered with coarse hair, and are about the size of a large pigeon's egg. Musk, originally a viscid fluid, concretes on drying into a brown friable solid, the strong, peculiar, and highly diffusible odour of which is well known.

According to Geiger and Reimann, the following substances are found in the finest China musk:—

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Fatty matter .....  | 1·1  |
| Cholesterine .....  | 4·1  |
| Bitter resin .....  | 5·0  |
| Osmazome, with muriate of ammonia, soda, and lime, and a peculiar acid .....  | 7·5  |
| Peaty substance, combined with ammonia, and small quantities of phosphate of lime, magnesia, sulphate of potassa, muriate of potassa, carbonate of soda, and traces of iron ..... | 36·5 |
| Water, peculiar volatile matter, an acid, and ammonia .....   | 45·8 |

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100

Musk is placed among the stimulant antispasmodics of the *Materia Medica*; but much difference of opinion exists as to its efficacy; and its high price and extreme liability to adulteration are, independent of any other objections, circumstances against its employment. It has been strongly recommended in all spasmodic diseases, but seldom had recourse to except in obstinate and peculiar cases, where more ordinary remedies

have been tried in vain. Mr. Thomson speaks highly of a combination of musk and calomel in epilepsy, and attributes the disappointment which has generally attended its use to the remedy having been adulterated, or to the smallness of the dose. He gave half a drachm four times daily<sup>1</sup>. The *mistura moschi* of the Pharmacopœia is not an eligible form for the administration of musk. It is best given in pill, bolus, or electuary, or in a very small quantity of liquid, united with other antispasmodics or stimulants.

R Moschi ʒj.

Camphoræ (ope Spt. Vin. pulverisat.) gr. v.

Confect. Rosæ Gall, q. s. ut fiat bolus.

R Moschi ʒj. ad. ʒss.

Mucil. Arabic. ʒj. tere simul, et adde

Mistur. Camphor. fʒj:

Spirit. Ammon. compos. fʒj.

M. fiat haustus pro re nata sumendus.

The adulterations of musk are not very easily detected, and among them the admixture of dried blood, which is said to be most frequent, is that which it is most difficult to recognise. In these cases it is necessary to possess a genuine specimen of fine musk, and, by comparing our samples with it, to judge of their quality. If, when burnt, it exhale a strong smell of burnt horn, we may suspect that blood has been added; for the odour thus exhaled by genuine musk, though it partakes of, yet differs from that of burnt blood. If it fuse when heated, asphaltum, or some other bituminous or resinous substance, has probably been mixed with it. Earthy matter, shot, and clippings of lead, are sometimes found in it; and sometimes the bags themselves, as well as their contents, are not genuine. As I have before observed, careful comparison with genuine musk best enables us to judge in these matters.

Official Preparation. *Mistura Moschi*.

MYRISTICÆ NUCLEI—*Nutmegs*—the *Kernel of the Fruit of the Myristica Moschata*<sup>2</sup>.—This tree is a native of the Molucca Islands; it grows to the height of 30 feet, and produces numerous branches, covered by brown and green bark: the leaves are oval, pointed, undulated, bright green on the upper side, and whitish beneath, and stand alternately on foot-stalks; the flowers are small, and hang upon slender peduncles, proceeding from the axillæ of the leaves: they are male and female on separate trees. The calyx of the male flower consists of a bell-shaped leaf, divided at the brim into 3 teeth.

<sup>1</sup> Lond. Disp. 1822, p. 392.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 22. Ord. 13. Diœcia Monadelphia. Nat. Ord. Lauri.



There is no corolla: the stamina are joined in a bundle, consisting of short filaments inserted into the receptacle, and surrounded with long linear and united anthers. The germen of the female flower is superior, oval, and the style is terminated by 2 stigmas. The fruit is about the size of a nectarine, and includes the kernel or nutmeg, which is covered by its own shell, and this by what is called *mace*. When the fruit is gathered, the mace is separated and dried in the sun; the nutmegs are then gently baked, taken out of their shells, and washed in lime-water.

The general qualities of the nutmeg are well known, and its medical properties are those of the aromatic stimulants.

It is said sometimes to occasion drowsiness, and the symptoms produced by narcotics; and Dr. Cullen has related such a case. The dose taken was two drachms of powdered nutmeg<sup>1</sup>.

Both mace and the nutmegs afford an essential or volatile, and an expressed oil. According to Spielman, nutmegs yield one-sixteenth their weight of essential oil, and about one-third of their weight of expressed or fat oil. According to Bonastre, nutmegs contain—

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Volatile oil .....   | 6·0  |
| Fixed oil .....      | 7·6  |
| Concrete oil.....    | 24·0 |
| Starch and gum ..... | 3·4  |
| Woody fibre .....    | 54·0 |
| Acid? .....          | 0·8  |
| Loss .....           | 4·2  |

---

100

Nutmegs should be dense, mottled, and greasy in the interior: those which are light, brittle, or pulverulent, are to be rejected. Mace should be bright brown, or nearly orange-coloured, aromatic, and high flavoured.

The fixed oil, generally called *oil of mace*, as usually imported, is wrapped in flag leaves; it is of the consistence of marrow, an orange colour, and slightly fragrant. The only use made of it is as an ingredient in the *emplastrum picis compositum*, where it might as well be omitted. It is probably generally adulterated; and it is said to be commonly composed of suet, palm oil, and a little of the genuine oil to give it odour.

Officinal Preparations. *Spiritus Myristicæ*. *Confectio aromatica*. *Spiritus Armoracæ comp*.

MYRRHA—*Myrrh*—*The Gum Resin of an unknown tree, said to be a native of Abyssinia and Arabia Felix*.—Probably

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<sup>1</sup> Cullen's M. Med. vol. ii. p. 204.

a species of *Amyris*. It is chiefly imported from Turkey, in the form of irregular tears and their fragments, of a reddish-brown colour, more or less translucent, a fragrant aromatic odour, and a warm pungent taste. It is sometimes largely mixed with other gummy resinous substances; with bdellium, which is dark-coloured, opaque, and nauseously bitter; and with a pale and nearly transparent gum, which has not the characters of myrrh. Resin and gum, in the relative proportions of about 34 to 66, with a little essential oil, appear to be its components; but these are very various in different samples.

The following is Brandes' analysis of select myrrh:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Volatile oil .....  | 2·60      |
| Bitter resin, soluble in ether .....  | 22·24     |
| Tasteless resin, insoluble in ether .....   | 5·56      |
| Gum .....   | 54·38     |
| Bassorin .....  | 9·30      |
| Malic, acetic, and benzoic acid, partly }<br>combined with potassa and lime ... } | 1·36      |
| Impurities and loss .....   | 4·56      |
|   | <hr/> 100 |

Good myrrh is of a bright red-brown colour, not too transparent, of an agreeable odour, and bitter, warm, but not nauseous taste: it crumbles between the teeth, and should not be sticky or insipid.

The principal medical use of myrrh is as a stimulating tonic, and it is a very good one. It may be given in doses of from 10 to 20 grains, either in pills, or triturated with any aromatic water, in the form of a draught: it is an excellent adjunct to carbonate of iron, in the *mistura ferri compos.*; and may be united with aloes and chalybeates as an emmenagogue; and with cinchona or other bitters as a general tonic. Such combinations are particularly adapted to leucophlegmatic and torpid habits, for myrrh is a warm and gently stimulating remedy; it improves the appetite, and generally agrees well with the stomachs of debilitated persons. In union with expectorants, it is often resorted to in asthmatic and catarrhal affections, and in certain stages of phthisis pulmonalis, when the debility from expectoration is considerable, and where it is not rendered inadmissible by any febrile or inflammatory symptoms of magnitude. The following is a good expectorant formula, from Dr. Paris's *Pharmacologia*:—

R Myrrhæ Gum. Resin. ʒiss.  
 Scillæ exsiccatae ʒss.  
 Extract. Hyoscyam. ʒij.  
 Aquæ q. s. ut fiant pilul. xxx., è quibus sumantur binæ  
 nocte manequæ.



The following pills are often convenient where a combination of tonics and aloetics are indicated ; but if kept too long they are apt to become hard and insoluble, and consequently often nearly ineffectual :—

R Ferri Sulphatis,  
Potassæ Subcarbonat. āā ʒj.  
Myrrhæ Pulver. ʒj.  
Aloës Pulver. ʒss.  
M. et divide in pilulas xxx.; ij. vel iij. pro dosi nocte  
maneque.

In cases of nervous debility, the following will sometimes be an effectual formula :—

R Tinctur. Myrrhæ fʒiij.  
Spirit. Ammon. compos.  
Syrupi Croci, āā fʒij.  
Mistur. Camphor. fʒv.  
M. fiat mistura, de qua sumantur cochlear. iij. bis vel ter die.

**OLIBANUM**—*A Gum Resin produced, according to the London Pharmacopœia, by the Juniperus Lycia.*—Mr. Thomson, however, on the authority of Mr. Colebrooke, regards it as the exudation of the *Boswellia serrata*<sup>1</sup> of Roxburgh, a native of the mountains of India. It is a large tree, with abundant foliage. The leaves are irregularly pinnate, consisting of ten pairs of leaflets, sessile, each an inch or an inch and a half long, obliquely ovate, oblong, obtuse, serrate, and villous, supported by round, downy petioles. The flowers are produced in axillary racemes, numerous, small, pale pink, and with minute bractes : the calyx is monophyllous, 5-toothed, and downy : the corolla is composed of 5 oblong, spreading, downy petals : the nectary adheres to the calyx ; the stamens are alternately shorter, supporting oblong anthers ; the germen is ovate, the style cylindrical, and the stigma trilobate ; the capsule is smooth and 3-celled, each cell containing one perfect seed, which is broad, cordate, and winged.

The finest olibanum is imported from the Levant, in yellowish white and nearly opaque tears or drops, having a slight odour of turpentine, and a bitterish taste. When burnt, it diffuses a sufficiently agreeable fragrance ; but it is of little importance as an article of the Materia Medica. It has been administered in doses of from 20 to 60 grains in gleans, but probably with very imperfect success ; and though it was once celebrated as an expectorant, is now scarcely employed.

According to Braconnot, 100 parts of olibanum contain 8

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 10. Ord. 1. Decandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Terebintaceæ.

of fragrant volatile oil, 56 of resin, 30 of gum, and 5 of a substance neither soluble in water nor in alcohol.

**OLIVÆ OLEUM**—*The expressed Oil of the Fruit of the Olea Europæa*<sup>1</sup>—*Olive Oil*.—The olive tree is a native of the South of Europe, and flowers from June to August: it is about 20 feet high, and sends off numerous branches, covered by grey bark: the leaves are firm, narrow, lance-shaped, entire, bright green on the upper side, and pale beneath, and stand in pairs on short footstalks: the flowers are small, white, numerous, and produced in clusters near the footstalks of the leaves: the calyx is tubular, and divided at the brim into 4 small erect deciduous segments; the corolla is a funnel-shaped petal, consisting of a short tube, about the length of the calyx, and divided at the border into 4 semiovate segments: the filaments are 2, tapering, opposite, and crowned with erect anthers: the germen is round, and supports a short style, furnished with a bifid stigma: the fruit is oval.

The market is almost exclusively supplied with oil from Italy. The oil is expressed from the pulp of the ripe fruit; that which first flows is called *virgin oil*, and is inodorous, and nearly insipid, having only a slight nut flavour. The residuary pulp, boiled and fermented, yields an inferior oil, which is mixed with that from the less perfect fruit, and exported, as well as some of the inferior oil, in casks, the former being exclusively preserved in large earthen jars, holding about 24 gallons each, or in glass flasks. The recent oil always deposits more or less of an albuminous sediment; and although the greater portion is separated previous to its exportation, there is always more or less sediment in the jars. The best olive oil, from Lucca, Florence, or Provence, is extremely bland and insipid; sometimes it has a slight acrimony and bitterness, said to arise from the unripe fruit. Its specific gravity is .916. It congeals at about 38°, and begins to be decomposed when its temperature is elevated to between 500° and 600°. It becomes rancid on keeping, especially when originally of an inferior quality, or adulterated with poppy oil. This adulteration renders the oil less easily congealable, and prevents its solidification by pernitrate of mercury, which, added to the genuine oil, forms a concrete compound in the course of a few hours.

Olive oil is not much used as an internal remedy, though may be substituted, in any of the formulæ mentioned above, for almond oil. In the dose of half an ounce to an ounce, it

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 2. Ord. 1. Diandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Sepiariæ, Linn. Jasmineæ, Juss.



is gently aperient, and is sometimes administered as an antidote to certain poisons; but in such cases it is rarely useful. The superficial application of this and other fixed oils to the body, is said to prevent the reception of plague, and to mitigate the symptoms of those suffering from the disease. Such inunction has also been recommended in ascites, but there is no good evidence of its utility. As a vehicle for various active remedies, in the form of *liniment*, this oil is very useful; it impedes the evaporation of volatile substances, and retains other bodies in contact with the cuticle, so as to enable them to be absorbed. Upon this principle, liniments of ammonia, of opium, and of cantharides, are frequently prescribed.

**OPIUM**—*The concrete Juice of the unripe Capsules of the Papaver somniferum*<sup>1</sup>, or *White Poppy*.—Opium is also sometimes procured from a large red Poppy.—The somniferous poppy is an annual, flowering in June in Europe, and in February in India. The stem is glaucous, smooth, erect, and round, rising 4 or 5 feet in height; the leaves are large, simple, obtuse, lobed, crenated, and embrace the stem on which they are placed alternately: the flowers are large and terminal; the calyx is formed of 2 smooth, ovate, bifid, concave leaves, which fall when the petals expand; the petals are 4, roundish, large, entire, and somewhat undulated; the filaments are numerous, slender, short, and support erect anthers; the germen is globular and smooth; the stigma many-rayed; the capsule, which stands on a short pedicel, is globular, smooth, glaucous, and crowned with the persistent stigma: the seeds are small, grey, and numerous, and when ripe, escape through small apertures under the points of the stigma.

The pharmaceutical history of opium should include an account of its sources, properties, and chemical composition; of its effects upon the animal economy, in its healthy and in its disordered state; of the various formulæ for its administration, and their respective doses; and of the treatment of cases in which it has been taken in excessive and dangerous quantities.

The white poppy is probably an original native of Asia, though by no means an uncommon indigenous plant in various parts of Europe. Opium is chiefly prepared in Turkey, Persia, and India; but the plant is also abundantly cultivated in France and the south of Europe, on account of its seeds, from which a useful bland oil is procured by expression.

The method of obtaining opium is sufficiently simple; the young plants are set out in rows, about 6 inches distant from

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 13. Ord. 1. Polyandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Rhœadæ, Linn. Papaveraceæ, Juss.

each other, and are at first plentifully watered. When 6 or 8 inches high, a rich manure is applied, and when about to flower they are again profusely watered. The collection of opium commences when the seed-capsules are about half-grown. At sunset two or three longitudinal incisions are made in each capsule, care being to avoid reaching the internal cavity; the exuding juice is removed as fast as it concretes, put into earthen pots, and ultimately dried in the sun; it is then formed into spherical masses, covered with poppy or tobacco leaves, and more completely dried.

Opium is found in the European market in flattish cakes, sprinkled with pieces of dried leaves, and with the seed-capsules of some species of *rumex*. It should be of a rich brown colour, a tough consistency, and a tolerably smooth and uniform texture. Its peculiar narcotic smell should be strong and fresh, and unaccompanied by any burnt odour. Its taste is nauseously bitter, and slightly warm and acrid. Those pieces which are very soft, full of herbaceous impurities, containing patches of a very dark-brown or black extract, of an empyreumatic odour, or not smelling duly narcotic, are in general adulterated; and it is not uncommon to find bullets concealed in masses even of the best opium. When good opium is carefully dried, it becomes brittle, and affords a yellow-brown powder. It burns with flame, and exhales an odour in which may be traced some resemblance to that of animal matter. Its specific gravity is about 1.3.

The above are the characters of the most genuine opium which reaches this country, and which is imported from *Turkey*: an inferior article, of a much darker colour, a less narcotic odour, and more bitter in taste, is imported under the name of *East Indian opium*; it is frequently mixed with the *Turkey opium*, an article which, on account of its large consumption and high price, is open to a great variety of adulterations, both abroad and at home; indeed it is not probable that much unadulterated opium ever reaches this country.

Opium of very excellent quality has been grown in England, and in medicinal powers it has been found fully as effective as the foreign; but the coldness and changeable nature of our climate renders it unlikely that it should ever be produced here in any considerable quantity, so as even to supply a small part of the commercial demands for this drug<sup>1</sup>.

The chemical nature of opium has long been matter of

<sup>1</sup> A description of the mode of cultivating the poppy, and of collecting opium, as successfully practised in Somersetshire, by the Rev. Mr. Swaine, will be found in the *Quarterly Journal of Science*, vol. ix. p. 69. See also, upon the same subject, the 37th volume of the *Transactions of the Society of Arts*.



inquiry ; but it is only lately that the subject has been at all satisfactorily investigated, and that through the researches of Sertuerner<sup>1</sup>, Robiquet<sup>2</sup>, and several other chemists, we have been made acquainted with the existence of a peculiar salifiable base in opium, to which the name of *Morphia* has been given, and to which its activity as a narcotic may probably be exclusively ascribed.

We have many analyses of opium, which, as might be expected, differ among each other. According to Merck, 100 parts of opium contain—

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Meconate of morphia .....           | 12·5  |
| Narcotine.....                      | 3·0   |
| Free acid.....                      | 3·0   |
| Oily matter .....                   | 8·2   |
| Extractive.....                     | 50·0  |
| Water.....                          | 9·3   |
| Fibre, albumen, and caoutchouc .... | 14·0  |
|                                     | <hr/> |
|                                     | 100   |

According to Pelletier and Robiquet, the component parts of opium are—

*Volatile oil* in minute quantity, and not narcotic.

*Gum and Bassorine.*

*Extractive.*

*Resin and colouring matter.*

*Caoutchouc.*

*Narceine and Meconine*, peculiar crystallisable substances, the medical properties of which have not been ascertained.

*Morphia* (12 to 20 per cent. in varieties of good opium.)

*Meconic acid*, in itself inert.

*Narcotine*, supposed to be the stimulating principle of opium.

*Sulphate of lime, sulphate of potassa, brown acid, and lignine.*

*Morphia*, not in a very pure state, is copiously precipitated by adding ammonia to a strong aqueous solution of opium ; but a better mode of obtaining it is to triturate powdered opium into a thin paste with acetic acid, and afterwards to add 6 or 8 parts of water. The liquor may be filtered off through coarse paper, and the residue treated with a small additional portion of acetic acid and water, as before. Add excess of ammonia to the filtered liquor, which will occasion a precipitate, to be collected on a filter ; evaporate the filtered liquor to about one-fifth its bulk, add a little more ammonia, and a second precipitate is obtained, which may be added to the former. These precipitates are impure morphia ; they may be cleansed by digestion in small quantities of *cold* alcohol, which will

<sup>1</sup> Ann. de Chim. et Phys. v. 21.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 275.

remove the chief part of the colouring matter, and the residue, being dissolved in boiling alcohol, furnishes crystals of pure morphia, as the liquid cools.

In this process, the salt of morphia (*meconate of morphia?*) existing in opium is decomposed by acetic acid, and a solution of acetate of morphia obtained, which the ammonia decomposes.

Robiquet's process, for obtaining morphia is as follows. Boil a concentrated solution of opium for a quarter of an hour, with a small quantity of magnesia, (about 200 grains of magnesia to a pound of opium is sufficient,) filter and wash the grey precipitate with cold water, dry it, and digest it in warm but weak alcohol, by which much colour is dissolved; then collect it upon a filter, boil it in highly rectified alcohol, and filter the solution while hot; as it cools, it deposits crystallised morphia.

In this process the meconate of morphia originally existing in the opium is decomposed by the magnesia, and the precipitate consists of morphia mixed with meconate of magnesia and a portion of uncombined magnesia. The morphia is separated from the precipitate by boiling alcohol.

It seems probable that in opium the morphia is combined with an acid, which, being in excess, gives to solutions of opium the property of reddening vegetable blues. This acid (the *meconic acid?*) may be obtained from the residuum of the magnesian precipitate left undissolved by alcohol in the above process for procuring morphia. For this purpose the magnesian residue is dissolved in very dilute sulphuric acid, and muriate of baryta added to the sulphuric solution; a red precipitate, consisting of sulphate and meconate of baryta, falls. This precipitate is to be boiled with very dilute sulphuric acid, by which the meconate of baryta is decomposed, and the meconic acid may be obtained from the filtered liquor by due evaporation. It may be purified by sublimation at a gentle heat. This acid has no narcotic effect.

By digesting opium in ether, and slowly evaporating the filtered ethereal tincture, a crystallised substance, contaminated by a little oil and caoutchouc, is obtained, which is perfectly distinct from, and independent of, morphia. This is the substance which has been termed *narcotin*, and upon which the exciting and stimulating power of opium, which usually precedes its sedative effects, is by some supposed to depend. It is insoluble in water, scarcely soluble in alcohol, and not alkaline.

Morphia is a colourless substance, of a bitter taste, and crystallises in quadrangular prisms. It is very little soluble even in boiling water, but it dissolves in boiling alcohol, and the



solution deposits crystals as it cools. It reddens turmeric, and converts vegetable blues to green, in the manner of an alkali; it also combines with the acids, forming with most of them crystallisable salts. The following is probably an approximation only to its ultimate composition:—

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Carbon .....   | 72·00            |
| Nitrogen ..... | 5·50             |
| Hydrogen ..... | 5·50             |
| Oxygen .....   | 17·00            |
|                | <hr/>            |
|                | 100 <sup>1</sup> |

Pure morphia, in consequence of its difficult solubility, is uncertain in its operation as a narcotic; but some of its salts have been found useful substitutes for opium. The *acetate of morphia* has been employed with advantage, and indeed *acetic tincture of opium*, which may be presumed to contain acetate of morphia, has long been used, as a preparation less liable to stimulate and excite than most others of opium. It has been supposed that some advantage may be derived by separating the narcotin from opium, which may be effected by washing the extract of opium, before it is sufficiently inspissated, with repeated portions of sulphuric ether. We have, however, no very satisfactory evidence of any improvement in the medical effects of opium derived from such a process.

*Muriate of Morphia* is a very soluble salt, forming bunches of acicular crystals; it is best obtained by digesting excess of morphia in dilute muriatic acid, filtering the solution, and evaporating. It has a bitter taste, and is an excellent narcotic, affecting the head less than the other preparations, and scarcely possessing any exciting powers; the dose is about half a grain. Eight grains dissolved in an ounce of distilled water forms a good solution for general use.

Exclusive of its active principles, opium, as the above analyses shew, contains inert extractive matter, gum, albumen, caoutchouc, and a few saline substances, but these, as well as the morphia, vary extremely in their relative proportions, so that it is of little use to state those afforded by any individual sample of the drug. According to Mr. Thomson<sup>2</sup>, fine Turkey opium contains nearly three times the quantity of morphia yielded by the same weight of East Indian opium. From a very carefully prepared sample of English opium, I procured rather a larger quantity of morphia than from the same weight of Turkey opium. The average produce

<sup>1</sup> See Quarterly Journal of Science, vol. xvi. p. 279, and Annales de Chimie et Physique, tom. xxiv. p. 163.

<sup>2</sup> Disp. 1822, p. 420.

of morphia from a pound of good opium may be estimated at about 500 grains, or one-fourteenth its weight ; but it is improbable that the whole is separated in any of our processes.

Opium stands at the head of the anodynes, sedatives, and narcotics. The mode in which it produces its effects has given rise to much discussion and controversy, all of a very unprofitable kind ; and, without entering into the physiological hypotheses which have been invented to account for its action, I shall here only briefly describe the more obvious and prominent phenomena to which it gives rise.

The apparent effect of small doses of opium often partakes of that of a direct stimulant, rather than a sedative. It increases arterial action, exhilarates the mind, produces headach and heat of the body. But these effects are followed by a peculiar quiescent state of the system, which is more apparent after a full dose, when the stimulating power of opium is, indeed, scarcely observed. Under such circumstances, the pulse is rendered full and slow, the skin warm and moist, the mind tranquil, and pain is allayed. Sometimes a profound and quiet sleep follows, and, on awaking, the person feels animated and refreshed. But the sleep is often broken and disturbed by most disagreeable dreams ; and, instead of refreshment, languor, giddiness, nausea, and drowsiness succeed ; or, what is not uncommon, the opium produces a very tranquil state of body and of mind, without the smallest tendency to sleep, and yet without any subsequent debility or exhaustion. The secretion from the skin is generally somewhat increased by opium, and sometimes considerably ; but the other secretions are obviously diminished ; the bowels, especially, become constipated<sup>1</sup>, and the urine smaller in quantity than usual. Bearing in mind these invariable effects of opium, its value in disease must be sufficiently obvious, as allaying pain, inducing sleep, and checking inordinate secretions.

In febrile diseases opium is useful where there are no high inflammatory symptoms. In typhoid fevers it allays irritability and watchfulness, quiets many of the nervous symptoms, prevents inordinate relaxation of the bowels, and tends, in combination with alcoholic and ammoniacal stimulants and bitters, to support the general powers of the system. In intermittent fevers, and especially in those which long resist the curative power of cinchona, it has been found that putting the system under the influence of opium, at the accession of the fit, has much accelerated its cure by the ordinary methods.

In acute and in chronic rheumatism opium is a most im-

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<sup>1</sup> The evacuations of persons taking opium have usually a peculiar sour smell.



portant remedy, as relieving the excruciating and wearing pains of those disorders. Here it is generally given united with diaphoretics, especially in the acute form of the disease: in its chronic state, similar combinations may be resorted to, and especially opium and calomel, with small doses of ipecacuanha or of emetic tartar. The following formula is very effectual in allaying rheumatic pains, especially when they come on with increased severity, as is often the case, upon getting warm in bed, or during the first sleep:—

R Opii gr. iv.  
Calomelanos gr. vj.  
Antim. Tartar. gr. j.  
Extract. Conii ʒj.  
M. divide in pilulas viij. Sumantur duæ hora decubitûs.

Where rheumatic and spasmodic pains are conjoined, as is not unfrequently the case, and where the attacks are periodical, opium, calomel or blue pill, cinchona or other tonics, and an occasional warm aperient, are the remedies that rarely fail of success. But in obstinate chronic rheumatism, confined to some one joint or muscle, the treatment by a brisk emetic and local stimulants is most to be depended upon.

In all obstinate and irritating coughs, where inflammatory action is not predominant, an opiate at bedtime is always palliative, and often curative: sometimes inflammatory action, or tendency to it, is produced and kept up by the mere strain and exertion of coughing; and, in such cases, that which checks the cough will diminish the inflammation.

In eruptive diseases, attended by typhoid fever, and in those cases of small pox especially in which convulsions precede the eruption, in putrid sore throat, in scarlet fever, and in all diseases attended by nervous debility, opiates are beneficial; but they must be cautiously administered, more particularly in reference to the state of the bowels. There is, in short, no spasmodic or convulsive disease in which the use of opium may not be said to be indicated; but it commonly requires the aid of purgatives, and often occasions mischief if the action of the bowels be not had in due consideration.

In certain dyspeptic states of the stomach attended by cramp, in water-brash, in common colic, and, above all, in *colica pictorum*, opium is successfully used: in all visceral diseases, attended by pain, it is often resorted to as a palliative: in the irritation of sabulous particles and calculi in the kidneys, ureters, or bladder, it is often the only means of securing a little rest; but here it requires very cautious attention to the state of the bowels, and especially of the urine, for the latter is sometimes so much diminished in quantity by the influence

of opium, as to precipitate a large additional proportion of sabulous matter. In cases of diseased prostate, irritable bladder, and painful affections of the rectum, a suppository of 2 or 3 grains of opium is sometimes the best mode of applying the remedy. Large doses of opium have also been found effectual in the treatment of diabetes<sup>1</sup>, and in that of uterine hæmorrhage<sup>2</sup>.

The use of opium in various combinations, and especially with mercurials, has already been adverted to. In reference to this subject, Dr. Paris justly observes<sup>3</sup> that, 'in combination, the medical powers of opium are wonderfully extended, so that there is scarcely a disease in which it may not, during some of its stages, be rendered useful;' and his formulæ furnish many good illustrations of such combinations.

Opium is best given in substance or in tincture; of the former a grain, and of the latter 20 minims, may be regarded as the average dose. Acetic and citric tinctures of opium have sometimes been recommended, under the idea that they prove sedative without exciting the nausea, headach, and constipation, which are so apt to follow the use of this remedy; but neither these, nor the salts of morphia, some of which have been recommended upon similar grounds, are found to altogether justify, upon trial, the high encomiums which have been bestowed upon them, though they are highly valuable remedies.

*Batley's sedative solution*, and the *Black drop*, are two preparations of opium much in use; the former is less stimulant than opium, and in strength about equal to the officinal tincture; it is said to contain acetate of morphia, the resin and extractive being separated.

The black drop was originally made about 100 years ago, by Edward Runstall, of Bishop Auckland, in Durham. It has been stated by the late Dr. Armstrong and others, that it is prepared by slicing half a pound of opium, and boiling it in conjunction with an ounce and a half of nutmeg, and half an ounce of saffron in 4 pounds of verjuice; then adding a quarter of a pound of honey, and 2 table-spoonsful of yeast; this compound is allowed to ferment for six weeks in a warm place, after which it is decanted, filtered, and bottled, adding a little sugar to each bottle. Were this recipe correct, it is evident that the black drop would contain an acidulous acetate of morphia, which is the case, as the drop, when diluted with water, and tested by litmus, displays acid properties: it is affected by

<sup>1</sup> Money. Med. Chir. Trans. vol. v. p. 236.

<sup>2</sup> Stewart. Ibid. vol. iv. p. 358.

<sup>3</sup> Pharmacologia, vol. ii. p. 322.



most of the usual tests of opium, and indicates the presence of morphia by nitric acid and permuriate of iron. The nature of this preparation is, however, unknown. It is much more powerful as a narcotic than the officinal tincture, 3 drops of which are only equal to 1 drop of the black drop.

Ether, camphor, ammonia, and aromatics, are among the most useful adjuncts to opium to prevent nausea and headach, and the bowels must be kept going by ordinary aperients, and occasionally more completely evacuated by a brisk purge. The tincture of opium is the most rapid and direct in its action of the preparations of this drug: opium in substance may be combined occasionally with gum resins, so as to render it less rapidly soluble in the stomach, and thus to retard or prolong its anodyne influence.

Persons habituated to opium will frequently bear very large doses with little effect; but where this is not the case, and where its direct sedative effects are imperiously required, as in cases of violent pain or spasm, or after certain surgical operations, care should be had not to administer it in small doses requiring repetition, since it is then apt to exhibit its stimulant rather than its anodyne powers: a full dose, of a grain and a half or 2 grains, or from 30 to 40 drops of the tincture, should be given at once, and repeated in an interval of two hours, if requisite: the patient should also be kept perfectly quiet.

The exhilarating effect which opium produces upon some people induces them to the dangerous expedient of habitual indulgence in its use; a custom which cannot too cautiously be guarded against, since it impairs the mental as well as the corporeal faculties, and, sooner or later, proves infinitely detrimental to both.

When an over-dose of opium has been taken, the treatment consists in exciting vomiting as speedily as possible, and in the subsequent administration of stimulants. The emetics to be preferred are sulphate of zinc or sulphate of copper. The latter is, perhaps, the most effective, and may be given in the dose of 10 grains, dissolved in 2 ounces of warm water, and repeated after a quarter of an hour if necessary. Large draughts of acidulated fluids are then recommended; but I should rather prefer chamomile or wormwood tea, and these not in large quantities. When the stomach is thoroughly evacuated, the recurrence of drowsiness must be prevented by keeping the patient in motion; ammoniacal and spirituous stimulants must be administered; and strong coffee has been found effectual in diminishing the headach and stupor: bleeding, especially in the jugular vein, may be resorted to, to relieve

the fulness of the vessels of the brain. If in these cases the emetics refuse to act, or the patient is in such a state as to be unable to swallow them; if the pupil is dilated, the breathing stertorous, and the system in a state of torpor from which it cannot be roused, the sufferer falls a sacrifice to the poison. In such cases, on examination after death, an inflammatory state of the stomach and bowels is the chief corporeal derangement that is discovered; in the brain no other morbid appearances are observed than extreme fulness and distension of the vessels generally: from Mr. Brodie's experiments, however, as well as those of Orfila, and other physiologists, the inflammatory appearance of the stomach would seem to result rather from the stimuli administered than from the direct influence of the poison.

As an external application, opium is not without its use, though it has probably been overrated. It may be applied in plasters, ointments, liniments, and embrocations, in all cases where pain and sometimes irritation are to be mitigated and subdued, or where cramp and spasm are to be relieved. A piece of cotton soaked in laudanum, or a piece of solid opium, put into the cavity of a hollow tooth, is a very effectual remedy in tooth-ach. The local application of opium is sometimes very successfully resorted to in painful tumours and ulcerating sores; but in such cases its internal administration is usually more effective.

Opium, if ever administered to children, requires to be given with more than ordinary caution: it should never be resorted to in any form except upon emergencies; and all opiates, especially syrup of poppies and some nostrums containing opium, which are but too frequently used to quiet children, should be most imperiously excluded from the list of nursery medicines.

Officinal Preparations. *Confectio Opii. Extractum Opii. Pilulæ Saponis cum Opio. Pulvis Cornu usti cum Opio. Pulvis Cretæ compositus cum Opio. Pulvis Ipecacuanhæ compositus. Tinctura Opii. Tinctura Camphoræ composita. Vinum Opii.*

OPOPONACIS GUMMI RESINA—*The Gum Resin of the Pastinaca Opoponax*<sup>1</sup>.—This plant is a native of the south of Europe, and flowers in June and July. It has a perennial, thick, fleshy, tapering root; the stalk is strong, branched, rough at bottom, and 7 or 8 feet high: the leaves are pinnated, consisting of several pairs of pinnæ, which are oblong, serrated, and veined: the flowers are yellow, small, and terminate the stem and branches in flat umbels: the general and partial umbels are composed of many radii: the invo-

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Umbellatæ.



lucra are commonly wanting: all the florets are fertile and uniform: the petals are 5, lanceolate, and curled inwards: the filaments are spreading, curved, longer than the petals, and furnished with roundish anthers: the germen is below the corolla, and supports 2 reflexed styles with blunt stigmata: the fruit is elliptical, compressed, divided into 2 parts, containing 2 flat seeds.

The roots of this species of parsnip furnish, on incision, a milky juice, which, when dried in the sun, is the *opoponax* of the shops. It generally occurs in tears, or in irregular agglutinated masses, of a peculiar smell somewhat resembling that of galbanum, a yellowish colour, and a bitterish taste. In pharmacy it ranks with ammoniacum and galbanum, and was formerly employed in cases where those gum resins are generally prescribed. It has of late fallen almost entirely into disuse, and is indeed a remedy which might with propriety have been excluded from the *Materia Medica*.

According to Pelletier, 100 parts of opoponax yield

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Volatile oil and loss .....      | 5.9  |
| Resin.....                       | 42.0 |
| Wax .....                        | 0.5  |
| Gum .....                        | 33.4 |
| Extractive, and malic acid ..... | 4.2  |
| Starch .....                     | 4.2  |
| Woody fibre and impurities ..... | 9.8  |

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100

#### ORIGANUM—*Origanum vulgare*<sup>1</sup>—*Wild Marjoram*.—

This plant thrives in chalky and gravelly soils, and blows in July: it has a perennial, creeping, fibrous root: the stem is erect, square, purplish, downy, producing opposite branches, and about 18 inches high: the leaves stand upon footstalks in pairs at the joints, and are ovate, pointed, smooth above, and downy beneath, and of a deep yellow-green colour. The flowers are numerous, terminal, pale purple, and stand in clusters; the floral leaves are oval, sessile, and of a brownish colour: the calyx is tubular, and divided at the brim into 5 segments, fringed at the edges: the corolla is a funnel-shaped tube, longer than the calyx, divided at the limb into 2 lips, of which the upper is erect, bifid, and obtuse, and the under trifid, blunt, and spreading: the filaments have double anthers; the germen is divided into 4 parts, from the centre of which rises a filiform style, crowned with a bifid, reflexed stigma. The seeds are 4, oval, and lodged in the bottom of the calyx.

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<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 14. *Ord.* 1. *Didynamia Gymnospermia. Nat. Ord. Labiata.*

Wild marjoram is a warm aromatic plant, formerly held in high estimation as a tonic and emmenagogue, but is now never prescribed. It furnishes an essential oil, which is sometimes employed as a stimulant, and also as a perfume in liniments and ointments.

OVUM—*The Egg of the Phasianus gallus, or domestic Fowl.*—Eggs are well known as nutritious food ; and the yolk, beaten up with a little wine or brandy and sugar, is a good restorative in cases of debility. In pharmacy, the yolk of egg is frequently used as a medium for mixing or suspending insoluble or imperfectly soluble substances in water : it consists chiefly of oily matter, and a peculiar modification of albumen ; the former may be obtained by expression from hard-boiled yolks which have been slightly torrefied. It had a place in old Pharmacopœiæ, under the name of *oleum ovorum* : it was particularly celebrated as a remedy for deafness, a few drops being put into the ear night and morning ; and it may possibly have been useful as a very unctuous application in cases of deficient ceruminous secretion. Egg-shells were once celebrated as an antacid, but are not preferable to more convenient forms of carbonate of lime.

PAPAVERIS CAPSULÆ—*The ripe Seed Capsules of the Papaver somniferum*<sup>1</sup>, commonly called *Poppy-heads*.—The white poppy is largely cultivated in the neighbourhood of London, for the purpose of supplying the pharmaceutical demands of the metropolis. These capsules furnish an extract, a syrup, and a decoction. The former is often conveniently used as a substitute for opium, in doses of 6 or 8 grains, which are considered equivalent to 1 of opium. Though less certain than that drug in its sedative effects, it often produces rest without the excitement which some constitutions suffer from opium. The same may be said of the syrup, which, when carefully and properly prepared, according to the directions of the Pharmacopœia, is an active opiate, and by no means to be trifled with, as it sometimes unfortunately is, especially with children. A teaspoonful has been known to prove fatal to a healthy infant. But this syrup is rarely prepared as it should be ; and often a solution of extract of poppies in simple syrup, or a mixture of tincture of opium and syrup, are substituted for it ; so that it becomes a very uncertain remedy. Of the genuine syrup from 1 to 2 drachms may be considered a dose for an adult. It is liable to ferment, and should therefore be kept cool, and not placed upon the chimney-piece, or in hot rooms of invalids.

The decoction of poppies is exclusively used as an anodyne

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<sup>1</sup> See *Opium*.



fomentation, but it is little preferable to warm water: tincture of opium added to warm water is a very effectual substitute for it.

Official Preparations. *Decoctum Papaveris. Extractum Papaveris. Syrupus Papaveris.*

**PETROLEUM.**—This bituminous substance, known also under the names of *Barbadoes* and *mineral tar*, has been used internally as a sudorific and diaphoretic, and externally as a stimulating application in cases of chronic rheumatism and affections of the joints. In this country it never enjoyed much reputation, and is now entirely laid aside. In Germany it has been extolled as an anthelmintic in cases of *tænia*. The following are Schwartz's drops for the cure of tape-worm:—

R Petrolei ℥ss.

Tinct. Assafœtid. ʒvj.

M. sit dosis gutt. 40 ter de die.

**PIMENTÆ BACCÆ**—*The Berries of the Myrtus Pimenta*<sup>1</sup>—*Allspice—Jamaica Pepper.*—This tall and fragrant tree is abundant in the West Indies, especially in Jamaica. It has a smooth grey bark; the leaves are 3 or 4 inches long, veined, pointed, elliptical, and deep green; the flowers are in panicles upon trichotomous stalks; the calyx is cut into 4 roundish segments; the petals are 4, white, small, reflex, oval, and placed opposite to each other between the segments of the calyx; the filaments are numerous, longer than the petals, spreading, and rise from the calyx and upper part of the germen; the anthers are roundish and yellow; the style is smooth, simple, erect; the stigma obtuse; the germen becomes a round succulent berry, containing two flat seeds.

The berries are gathered before they are quite ripe, and dried in the sun. The flavour of allspice is agreeably warm and aromatic, and in pharmacy it often serves the purpose of more expensive spices. It is especially useful in covering nauseous bitter flavours in various infusions, and the distilled water is a pleasant vehicle for saline purgatives and rhubarb.

Official Preparations. *Aqua Pimentæ. Oleum Pimentæ. Syrupus Rhamni.*

**PIPERIS LONGI FRUCTUS**—*The unripe Fruit of the Piper longum*<sup>2</sup>—*Long Pepper.*—This plant has shrubby, slender climbing stems; the shape of the leaves varies, they are commonly heart-shaped, pointed, entire, smooth, nerved, deep green, and stand alternately upon footstalks; the flowers

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 12. Ord. 1. Icosandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Myrti.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 2. Ord. 3. Diandria Trigynia. Nat. Ord. Urtica.

are small and produced in short terminal spikes: the parts of inflorescence resemble those of the following species.

This pepper differs little in flavour, and nothing in medicinal properties, from black pepper. It is native in Bengal, where the spikes are gathered in an immature state, and dried in the sun.

Official Preparations. *Pulv. Cinnam. compos.* ' *Confectio Opii.* *Pulvis Cretæ compos.* *Sp. Ætheris arom.* *Tinct. Cinnamomi compos.*

**PIPERIS NIGRI BACCÆ**—*The Berries of the Piper nigrum*<sup>1</sup>—*Black Pepper*.—This plant grows wild in India, but its fruit does not attain perfection without care and culture. It is grown with many precautions and with much success in Java, Malacca and Sumatra, whence the European market is almost exclusively supplied. A full and curious account of the method of cultivation is given by Mr. Marsden in his History of Sumatra.

The root is perennial, the stems round, smooth, jointed, woody, trailing, and from 8 to 12 feet high; the leaves are ovate, smooth, dark green, and stand at the joints of the branches, upon strong footstalks; the flowers are small, white, and produced in terminal spikes; there is no regular calyx nor corolla; the filaments are flat, and the anthers roundish; the germen is ovate and crowned with 3 rough stigmas: the fruit a red berry.

Black pepper has little odour, but an intensely pungent taste, free from aroma. Its acrimony has been ascribed to a peculiar vegetable principle; but although a crystallisable substance (*piperin*) may be extracted from black pepper, its acrimony appears to reside in a distinct resin. Alcohol is the most perfect solvent of the active principle of pepper; water also extracts it in considerable proportion. When purchased in the ground or powdered state it is very apt to be adulterated; and even the entire corns have been imitated by a farinaceous paste rolled into the figure of the berry. This fraud is detected by boiling water upon the pepper, which disintegrates the spurious grains.

According to Pelletier, black pepper contains

- An acrid resin.
- Volatile oil.
- Piperin.
- Extractive.
- Gum and Bassorin.
- Starch.
- Malic and tartaric acid.
- Salts of potassa, lime, and magnesia.
- Woody fibre.

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<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 2. *Ord.* 3. *Diandria Trigynia.* *Nat. Ord.* *Verticæ.*



What is called *white pepper* is the ripe berry stripped of its outer coat; for this purpose the berries are steeped in water, till their outer covering bursts; this is separated and the pepper dried in the sun. The over-ripe berries which fall off the plant lose their outer coat, and are sold as inferior white pepper. What is sold under the name of *decorticated pepper* is black pepper deprived of its husk by mechanical trituration.

Luca obtained from 100 parts of white pepper

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Volatile oil .....                 | 1·61  |
| Acrid resin (and piperin?).....    | 16·60 |
| Starch .....                       | 18·50 |
| Albumen .....                      | 2·50  |
| Gum with extractive and salts..... | 12·50 |
| Lignin .....                       | 29·00 |
| Loss in moisture, &c. ....         | 19·29 |
|                                    | <hr/> |
|                                    | 100   |

The uses of black pepper as a condiment are well known. In pharmacy it ranks with the most powerful vegetable stimulants, and is sometimes usefully combined with bitters, in dyspeptic affections attendant upon gout. It has been extolled as a coadjutor to bark in the cure of intermittents; but its only merit in such cases is as a warm condiment, generally agreeable to the stomach. In those kinds of sore throat attended by relaxation, a gargle or infusion of black pepper may be substituted for that of Cayenne pepper or capsicum.

Official Preparations. *Confectio Rutæ. Confectio Piperis nigri.*

PIX ABIETINA — *The prepared Resin of the Pinus Abies*<sup>1</sup>—*Burgundy Pitch.*—(See *Abietis Resina.*)

PIX LIQUIDA—*The liquid prepared Resin of the Pinus sylvestris*<sup>1</sup>, or *Scotch Fir.*—This species of fir is common over the north of Europe; it is a straight abruptly branched ever-green tree with a rough brown bark; the leaves are short, linear and pointed, issuing in pairs from a grey truncated sheath; the flowers are white, the male catkin is densely spiked, bracteated, elliptical, obtuse, with numerous scales on the upper side, and bearing a sessile anther on the under; the female is inferior, often terminate, peduncled, smooth, green, and changes into a small cone, bearing two winged seeds within each scale.

The substance called *Tar* is prepared by a kind of distillation of the wood of the Scotch fir, which is cut into billets, and piled into a stack covered with turf; this is set fire to,

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 21. Ord. 8. Monœcia Monadelphia. Nat. Ord. Coniferæ.

and suffered to burn slowly, with the imperfect access of air: during this process the tar runs off at the bottom of the pile, and is collected in barrels. It is chiefly imported into England from the Baltic.

Boiling water poured upon tar acquires an empyreumatic flavour and a yellow colour. *Tar-water* thus prepared has occasionally been used as a diaphoretic and diuretic, but it is properly rejected from present practice. Sir Alexander Crichton recommends the vapour of heated tar (the acid of which has been previously neutralised) to be diffused through the atmosphere in the chambers of persons suffering under pulmonary consumption. Tar-water has also been celebrated as an external application in ringworm and other cutaneous affections, but the eulogies which have been bestowed upon tar, in any form, appear very ill deserved.

**PIX NIGRA**—*Pitch—the solid prepared Resin of the Pinus sylvestris.*—This is merely inspissated tar, and of little use as an article of the *Materia Medica*.

**PLUMBI SUBCARBONAS**—*Subcarbonate of Lead—Ceruse or White Lead.*—This is a substance of little or no use in pharmacy. It is sometimes employed alone, or in ointments, as an application to unhealthy sores. It consists of one proportional of oxide of lead=112, and one of carbonic acid=22, and ought therefore to be termed *carbonate of lead*<sup>1</sup>. I have known it recommended as an application to the excoriated cuticle of infants, where it is a most dangerous and improper remedy: even with adults, who have used it as a cosmetic, it has induced alarming symptoms.

Painters and the manufacturers of white lead are subject, from the absorption of the poison, to the disease called *colica pictonum*: the leading symptoms of which are, constant pain about the region of the navel, and obstinate constipation, attended by frequent but ineffectual desire to evacuate the bowels. The violence of the pain, however, and of the other symptoms, is dependent upon the quantity of poison, and the circumstances under which it has been introduced into the system, so that there is an acute and chronic form of the disease. Loss of appetite, nausea, occasional vomiting, and excessive anxiety and restlessness, are symptoms which frequently harass the patient for several weeks; and in some cases a kind of delirium or mania succeeds, which, however, is not to be considered as alarming, since it goes off with the other symptoms. Neither the pulse nor the tongue are ma-

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<sup>1</sup> See Part II. *Preparations of Lead.*



terially affected, except perhaps that the former is quickened during the paroxysms of pain, which appears to be, in some measure, relieved by pressure on the parts, and by keeping the trunk bent upon the knees, a position which we frequently observe in sufferers from this colic, and which leads to a distinction between it and inflammation of the bowels. The symptoms of this disorder may be considered as arising from a spasmodic affection of the intestinal canal, and chiefly of the colon; the fæces are thus confined, and become hard and irritating; the principal objects, therefore, in the treatment are, to allay spasm, so that aperients may become operative, and to evacuate the bowels by the least irritating means; opium, therefore, should be conjoined with gentle aperients.

R Olei Ricini f℥ss.

Vitelli Ovi q. s.

Aq. Anethi f℥iss.

Tinct. Opii gutt. xxx.

M. fiat haustus sextâ quâque horâ sumendus.

Opiate glysters, warm fomentations, and, above all, the hot bath, are useful remedies, and sometimes saline purges may be substituted where castor oil disagrees; or where all fluids are rejected by vomiting, a pill of calomel, aloes, and opium, must be had recourse to. When the bowels are fully relieved, and by proper after-treatment brought to their natural state, the various symptoms of the disease rapidly give way, provided it has been attacked at an early period, and all further ingress of the poison carefully avoided. But where it has long existed in a chronic form, or where the acute attacks have been often repeated, other symptoms appear, more difficult to combat: such are, attacks resembling epilepsy, and a paralytic affection of the hands, the wrist becoming, as it were, very loose and flaccid; soft and hard tumours are also discerned on the back of the hand, the former being the enlarged sheaths of the tendons of the extensor muscles, the latter, the swollen heads of the metacarpal bones: the adductor muscles of the thumb are also observed to waste away. Even where the disorder has arrived at this height, proper treatment, with especial attention to the bowels, and the application of splints, so as to keep the hand supported in a straight line with the fore-arm<sup>1</sup>, will generally succeed in curing the prevailing symptoms, but the entire recovery is excessively slow and doubtful, and some of the effects of the malady usually haunt the patient during the rest of his life. It is, above all things, necessary to remove persons suffering

<sup>1</sup> See Dr. Pemberton's observations on the use of splints in these cases, in his *Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Abdominal Viscera*, p. 151.

under this complaint from all possible sources of the poison which has brought it on ; to give them air, and such exercise as they can endure ; and to enjoin a nutritious, but not a stimulating diet. Where these precautions are neglected, or where proper treatment is not resorted to, the persons become incredibly emaciated, the epileptic attacks frequent, palsy more general, and they die a lingering death. What I have now said will show the necessity of great precaution in all medicinal uses of the preparations of lead.

**PLUMBI OXIDUM SEMIVITREUM** — *Litharge, or semivitrified Oxide of Lead.*—This is protoxide of lead reduced by imperfect fusion to the form of transparent scales of a reddish yellow colour. It consists of—

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1 proportional of lead..... | 104       |
| 1 ————— Oxygen .....        | 8         |
|                             | <hr/> 112 |

In combination with oil this oxide forms common plaster, (*emplastrum plumbi.*)

**PORRI RADIX**—*The Root of the Allium Porrum<sup>1</sup>, or Leek.*—This is a biennial and a native of Swisserland ; it flowers in June. The bulb consists of concentric layers upon a radical plate ; the leaves are broad, and the stem a naked scape, bearing a spherical umbel of flowers, with rough-keeled petals, shorter than the stamens. It is a stimulant, possessing the general properties of garlic, but much milder. No good reason can be given for retaining it in the present list of the *Materia Medica*.

**POTASSÆ NITRAS**—*Nitrate of Potassa—Purified Nitre—Saltpetre.*—England is exclusively supplied with nitre from her Indian territories. It is imported from Bengal in an impure and imperfectly crystallised state, and refined in this country by solution and crystallisation. It is an article of enormous consumption in the time of war, being an essential ingredient in gunpowder ; it is also largely employed as a source of nitric acid, and for some other purposes in the arts. It crystallises in six-sided prisms, terminated by a dihedral summit, and retains no water of crystallisation, being composed of—

|                                    |           |      |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------|-----------|
| 1 proportional of Nitric Acid .... | 54        | .... | 53        |
| 1 ————— Potassa .....              | 48        | .... | 47        |
|                                    | <hr/> 102 |      | <hr/> 100 |

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 6. Ord. 1. Hexandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Spathaceæ, Linn. Asphodeli, Juss.



The crystals are permanent, and soluble in 7 parts of water at 60°, and in less than their own weight at 212°. Nitre fuses at a dull red heat, and concretes, on cooling, into a transparent white mass, often called *sal prunella*, a name derived from the circumstance of its having occasionally been stained of a plum colour. At a red heat its acid suffers decomposition.

Nitre has a peculiarly cooling taste; it is diuretic; and when given in small but repeated doses, it diminishes arterial action; hence it is frequently administered as a sedative refrigerant in inflammatory complaints, excepting those of the urinary organs, where it ought generally to be avoided. The dose of nitre is from 5 to 20 grains, in an ounce and a half of liquid; the best vehicles are those of a mucilaginous nature, and almond emulsion is frequently used. If intended to exert its refrigerant powers, the draught, as Dr. Paris has remarked, should be swallowed immediately after the solution of the salt is complete. In such cases it may be directed in powder, as follows:—

R Pulveris Nitri gr. viij.

Pulver. Tragacanth. compos. ʒss.

M. fiat pulvis quartis horis ex aquæ frigidæ cochlear. iij. sumendus.

In inflammatory diseases, nitre may also be combined with a variety of diaphoretic remedies, such as the common saline draught, or with saline mixtures containing tartarised antimony:—

R Potassæ Subcarbonatis ʒj.

Succi Limonum recentis f ʒss.

Misturæ Camphoræ f ʒj.

Potassæ Nitratis gr. x.

Syrupi Rhæados f ʒj.

M. fiat haustus quartâ quâque horâ sumendus.

R Liquoris Ammonia Acetatis,

Aquæ Menthæ viridis, aa f ʒij.

Aquæ distillatæ f ʒiiiss.

Potassæ Nitratis ʒss.

Vini Antimonii Tartarizati f ʒss.

Fiat mistura cujus sit dosis cochlearia tria amplâ tertiâ vel quartâ quâque horâ.

Nitre is apt to excite a very unpleasant coldness, attended often by spasm, in the stomach; and where this happens, its use should, in most cases, be discontinued.

Nitre is a good detergent addition to saccharine and viscid gargles for the cure of inflammatory sore throat:—

R Potassæ Nitratis ℥iss.  
 Mellis Despumat. f ℥ij.  
 Aquæ Rosæ f ℥vj.

M. fiat gargarisma.

Or,

R Potassæ Nitratis ℥ij.  
 Decocti Hordei f ℥vij.  
 Oxymellis Simplicis f ℥j. M.

The resemblance of crystallised nitre to Glauber's salt has sometimes led to the accidental substitution of the former for the latter; and in doses of half an ounce to an ounce (the usual dose of sulphate of soda), nitre proves virulently poisonous, exciting violent spasms, vomiting, bloody stools, convulsions, and often proving fatal. In such cases, viscid mucilaginous drinks, with opium and cordials, are the most effective restoratives.

The solution of powdered nitre in water is attended by a considerable production of cold, which is increased by the addition of sal ammoniac; such a solution may sometimes prove effectual as an extemporaneous refrigerant lotion, where ice cannot be procured. For this purpose, equal weights of powdered nitre and sal ammoniac may be dissolved in 10 or 12 parts of the coldest water that can be obtained.

POTASSÆ SULPHAS—*Sulphate of Potassa*.—For the preparation of this salt there is also a formula among the “Preparations and Compounds.” Its usual form is that of a short hexaedral prism, terminated by hexaedral pyramids. The crystals are permanent in the air, of a bitter saline taste, and require 16 parts of cold and 5 of boiling water for their solution. They consist of—

|   |                               |    |      |      |
|---|-------------------------------|----|------|------|
| 1 | proportional of Potassa ..... | 48 | .... | 54.5 |
| 1 | ————— Sulphuric Acid...       | 40 | .... | 45.5 |
|   |                               | 88 |      | 100  |

Sulphate of potassa is a useful aperient, and, in conjunction with rhubarb, forms an excellent purge for children. Fifteen grains of the powdered salt, with 5 of rhubarb, may be given to children of from four to six years of age, as an effectual, though gentle, means of removing visceral obstructions. In the dose of a drachm, or a drachm and a half, sulphate of potassa proves purgative, but its difficult solubility is against its general use. Sometimes it is administered in pills, with small doses of aloes, especially in cases of habitual constipation.

POTASSÆ SUPERTARTRAS—*Purified Supertartrate of Potassa*.—Tartar, in its crude state, as originally deposited



in wine casks, is of a brownish-red colour, and is purified by dissolving it in boiling water, and adding albumen and wood ashes; the former coagulates, floats, and entangles various impurities, whilst the latter occasions an effervescence, throwing these up to the surface, whence they are removed by repeated skimmings. Sometimes aluminous earth is used to precipitate the colouring matter, and sometimes the colour is destroyed by well-burnt charcoal.

Supertartrate, or bitartrate of potassa, consists of two proportionals of tartaric acid, and one of potassa, or—

|               |       |    |      |       |      |      |
|---------------|-------|----|------|-------|------|------|
| Tartaric Acid | ..... | 67 | × 2  | = 134 | .... | 73·6 |
| Potassa       | ..... | 48 | .... | 26·4  |      |      |
|               |       |    |      | <hr/> |      |      |
|               |       |    |      | 182   |      | 100  |

It is doubtful whether it contains any definite water of crystallisation. It is said to require 125 parts of water at 60°, and 30 parts at 212°, for its solution; it is, therefore, on account of its difficult solubility, not well calculated for administration in liquids, but is generally exhibited in powder or electuary. It feels gritty in the mouth, and has a slightly acid taste.

In the dose of a drachm, repeated twice or thrice a day, cream of tartar proves aperient, but is very apt to excite pain and flatulence of the bowels. Conjoined with jalap, it forms a diuretic purgative, already noticed as useful in dropsical affections. A weak solution of tartar, flavoured with sugar and lemon-peel, is the pleasant refrigerant drink generally called *imperial*; the following are the proportions:—

R Potassæ Supertart. ℥ss.  
 Sacchari Purif. ℥iv.  
 Corticis Limonum recent. ℥ss.  
 Aquæ ferventis Oijj. M.

An electuary of tartar and honey is said to be efficacious as vermifuge.

Purified tartar is sometimes mixed with white siliceous pebbles, bruised into small fragments; this is the only adulteration I have detected in it, and, in one instance, to the amount of nearly 15 per cent. A variable proportion of tartrate of lime is also found in tartar. When the excess of acid in tartar is neutralised by an additional proportion of potassa, it constitutes the *potassæ tartras* of the Pharmacopœia, or the *soluble tartar* of old pharmacy, which is a good saline aperient. (See *Potassæ Tartras*, among the preparations and compounds.)

POTASSA IMPURA—*Impure Potass*—*Pearlash*.—The British market is supplied with this article from the Baltic and from America. It is obtained by lixiviating wood ashes; the

first product of the evaporation of the lye, which is brown, and commonly called *potash*, is converted into *pearlash* by gentle calcination in a reverberatory furnace, by which the carbonaceous colouring matter is burned out.

Pearlash is a mixture of several salts, among which carbonate of potassa predominates; it is usually tinged reddish or greenish blue by the oxides of iron and manganese; sulphate and muriate of potassa are also plentiful in it, and it is often abundantly adulterated with sand and common salt.

The best mode of ascertaining the value of pearlash, or the quantity of real carbonate of potassa which it contains, consists in determining its saturating power in regard to any acid of known strength. "The best that can be employed for this purpose is sulphuric acid of specific gravity 1.141. Of this 355 grains are equivalent to the saturation of 100 grains of carbonate of potassa. Dissolving, therefore, that quantity of the carbonate in water, and gradually adding the test, so as to produce neutralisation, we learn by the quantity of acid expended, the quantity of real carbonate which has been acted upon: for as 355 is to 100, so is the weight of the test which has been used to the number required <sup>1</sup>." In thus testing the alkaline solution, it should be warmed, so as to expel the carbonic acid which remains dissolved in it.

For pharmaceutical use, pearlash is purified by pouring upon it its weight of cold water, by which the carbonate of potassa (*subcarbonate* of the Pharmacopœia) is dissolved, and the less soluble substances remain. This solution is evaporated to dryness in a clean iron vessel.

**PRUNA**—*The dried Fruit of the Prunus domestica* <sup>2</sup>—*Prunes*.—The common plum tree is too well known to require description. The dried fruit is imported from the continent of Europe. The pulp of prunes is a mild aperient, and one of the ingredients in *confectio sennæ*.

**PTEROCARPI LIGNUM**—*The Wood of the Pterocarpus Santalinus* <sup>3</sup>—*Red Saunders*.—This lofty tree is a native of India; its leaves are petiolate and ternate, each simple leaf being ovate, blunt, entire, smooth above and hoary beneath; the flowers are in axillary spikes; the calyx brown; the corolla papilionaceous; the filaments yellow; the anthers white and globular; the germen oblong; the style curved, and the stigma obtuse; the pod is flat, and contains one compressed

<sup>1</sup> Henry, vol. i. p. 523.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 12. Ord. 1. Icosandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Rosaceæ.

<sup>3</sup> Cl. 17. Ord. 4. Diadelphia Decandria. Nat. Ord. Papilionaceæ.



seed. The resinous substance called *Dragon's Blood* is produced by this tree, as well as by the *Pterocarpus Draco*.

No medical virtues belong to red sandal wood, but it abounds in colouring matter, very soluble in spirituous menstrua, and is used for tinging certain tinctures. It is imported in blocks from India.

**PULEGIUM**—*Mentha Pulegium*<sup>1</sup>—*Penny Royal*.—This is an indigenous perennial, flowering in September, and cultivated for medical use; it has a square, branching stem, somewhat trailing and hairy; the leaves are petiolate, small, bluntly serrated, and obtuse; the flowers are supported on hairy stalks, in sessile whorls; the calyx is 5-cleft, with the teeth pointed, unequal, and ciliated; the corolla is twice the length of the calyx, purple, 4-cleft, with the base white and villous; the stamens are erect, larger than the corolla; the germen 4-cleft, with a filiform style and bifid stigma.

Penny-royal affords, on distillation with water, a pungent aromatic oil, which, as a nervous stimulant, is occasionally added to antispasmodics and emmenagogues; or penny-royal water is used as a vehicle for such remedies. It is, however, now much less used than formerly, though it may not improperly be substituted for mint or peppermint-water. 1 cwt. of fresh penny-royal affords an average produce of 1 lb. of essential oil.

**PYRETHRI RADIX**—*The Root of the Anthemis Pyrethrum*<sup>2</sup>—*Pellitory of Spain*.—This plant has a perennial, tapering, and fibrous root; the stem rises 10 or 12 inches, is round, simple, and bears one flower; the leaves are doubly pinnated; the segments narrow, nearly linear, and of a pale-green; the flowers are large, yellow at the disc, white at the radius at the upper side, and purple beneath; the florets resemble those of the chamomile.

The root is imported from the Levant. It is a powerful stimulant, exciting, when chewed, a tingling sensation upon the tongue, and a copious flow of saliva. It has, therefore, been used in substance or as a gargle, in all cases where it is desirable to promote that secretion; it is often very effectual in relieving toothach, for which purpose the root may be chewed, or the following *compound tincture of pyrethrum* may be applied upon cotton to the tooth and gum:—

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 14. Ord. 1. Didynamia Gymnospermia. Nat. Ord. Labiatae.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 19. Ord. 2. Syngenesia Superflua. Nat. Ord. Corymbiferae.

R Pyrethri Radicis contus.  $\mathfrak{Z}$ ss.  
 Camphoræ  $\mathfrak{Z}$ ij.  
 Opii  $\mathfrak{Z}$ j.  
 Olei Caryophyllor.  $\mathfrak{Z}$ ij.  
 Spirit. Vini rectificat.  $\mathfrak{Z}$ vj.  
 M. et digere per dies decem. Cola.

In paralysis of the muscles of deglutition, pyrethrum has been administered in powder, and conjoined with other stimulants, in doses of from 10 grains up to a drachm.

This root has been analysed with the following results:—

According to John—

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Acrid resin, with a trace of volatile oil and camphor | 1·7  |
| Bitter extract .....                                  | 11·7 |
| Gum .....   | 20·0 |
| Inulin .....  | 40·0 |
| Lignin .....  | 25·0 |
| Water and loss .....                                  | 1·6  |

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100

According to Gautier—

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Acrid fixed oil and a trace of volatile oil ..... | 5  |
| Extractive .....                                  | 14 |
| Gum .. ..   | 11 |
| Inulin.....                                       | 33 |
| Lignin .....                                      | 35 |
| Trace of muriate of lime, and loss .....          | 2  |

---

100

QUASSIÆ LIGNUM—*The Wood of the Quassia excelsa*<sup>1</sup>.

This handsome tree is a native of South America and some of the West Indian Islands; it has a thin grey bark; the leaves are alternate, and consist of 2 pairs of opposite pinnæ, with an odd one at the end; the leaflets are elliptical, entire, smooth, and deep-green; the ribs are pink; the flowers are in clusters, small, yellowish-green, with a small calyx; the male flowers nearly resemble the hermaphrodite, except that they have only the rudiments of a style; the fruit is a small, black drupe, attached in threes to a round, fleshy receptacle; it is not bitter.

Quassia wood is imported in billets from the West Indies. It has a pure but intense bitter taste, which it readily imparts to water. The best form for its administration is that of infusion, a good strength of which is two drachms of the rasped wood to a pint of boiling water, infused for four hours and strained. This has the advantage over most other vegetable infusions of not decomposing metallic salts; nor is it black-

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 10. Ord. 1. Decandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Gruinales, Linn. Magnoliæ, Juss.



ened by iron ; hence it is a good vehicle for a variety of mineral tonics. In some cases of dyspeptic debility, especially that brought on by habitually taking too much wine, the stomach will sometimes be relieved by the following formula :—

R Infusi Quassiae f ʒiss.

Zinci Sulphatis gr.  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

M. fiat haustus bis die sumendus.

An infusion of quassia, sweetened by brown sugar, is an effectual poison for flies, and should be preferred to the more pernicious compounds generally used for that purpose.

The nature of *quassin*, the peculiar bitter principle of this wood, has been very imperfectly ascertained.

**QUERCUS CORTEX**—*The Bark of the Quercus pedunculata*<sup>1</sup>—(according to the Pharmacopœia).

This magnificent indigenous tree has a rough, brown bark, alternate, sessile, lobed leaves ; flowers in axillary catkins ; the male, pendulous, many-flowered, and yellow ; the female, longer, peduncled, and 3-flowered ; the calyx of the male flower is membranous and bell-shaped ; that of the female scaly, hemispherical, entire, and woody ; the stamens are 10, longer than the calyx ; the germen ovate, crowned with a short cylindrical style, and 3 stigmas ; the fruit is well known.

Oak bark has frequently been substituted for cinchona in the treatment of febrile diseases, but has never been found more effectual than other common astringent tonics, and perfectly inadequate to the cure of obstinate intermittents ; this inefficacy may now plausibly be explained by the non-existence of any principle in oak bark corresponding to the salifiable bases discovered in the cinchonæ.

Infusion or decoction of oak bark is most used as an external application, combined with other vegetable astringents, or holding alum in solution, which, however, is partially decomposed by it.

According to Davy, the inner bark of the oak contains 15 or 16 per cent. of tannin.

According to Löwig, the following are the contents of the acorn :

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Starch .....   | 38·0 |
| Tan .....  | 9·0  |
| Bitter extract .....                                   | 5·2  |
| Gum .....  | 6·4  |
| Resin .....  | 5·2  |
| Fixed oil .....  | 4·3  |
| Traces of salts of lime, potassa, and<br>alumina ..... | }—   |
| Lignin .....   | 31·9 |

100

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 21. Ord. 6. Monœcia Polyandria. Nat. Ord. Amentaceæ.

**RESINA FLAVA**—*Yellow Resin*.—This is the produce of the *pinus sylvestris*, being the residuary resin, after the distillation of oil of turpentine. It acquires its yellow colour by being agitated with water while in a fluid state; when simply distilled to dryness, it becomes deeper coloured and transparent, and is then known as *rosin* or *colophony*. Yellow resin is an ingredient in various plasters, but is not used internally.

**RHAMNI BACCÆ**—*The Berries of the Rhamnus catharticus*<sup>1</sup>—*Buckthorn Berries*.—An indigenous shrub, flowering in May, and ripening its berries in October; it has a woody, branched stem; the leaves are ovate, serrated, and in fascicles, on footstalks; the flowers are peduncled, greenish-yellow, 4-cleft, and often male and female on different plants; the filaments are short; the anthers round; the germen ovate, with a slender style, and 4-cleft stigma; the fruit is a small, black, 4-seeded berry.

The juice of these berries is a mischievously drastic purgative, and should never be used, except in veterinary practice, though they once had considerable repute as promoters of watery discharge from the bowels, in cases of dropsy.

Official Preparation. *Syrupus Rhamni*.

**RHEI RADIX**—*The Root of the Rheum palmatum*<sup>2</sup>—*Rhubarb*.—This plant is a native of China and Tartary; it has been cultivated in this country, and sometimes with a view of supplying the British market, but these attempts have pretty generally failed; indeed, the exact species of *rheum*, with the root of which we are supplied by the Chinese, seems not accurately ascertained. The varieties of rhubarb, known in commerce under the names of *Russian*, *Turkey*, and *Indian* rhubarb, are all derived from one source, the finest and most perfect pieces being sold under the name of Russian and Turkey rhubarb, and the inferior ones as East Indian. In selecting rhubarb for the Russian market, the utmost attention is paid to its soundness, and a variety of curious precautions are adopted by that government to prevent the importation of any inferior kinds.

The *rheum palmatum* has a thick branched root; its stem is 8 or 10 feet high, erect, round, hollow, jointed, somewhat furrowed, and branched at top; the lower leaves stand upon long, smooth petioles: they are large, rough, lobed, and irregularly pointed; the leaves of the stem spring from the joints;

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Dumosæ, Linn. Rhamni, Juss.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 9. Ord. 3. Enneandria Trigynia. Nat. Ord. Holeraceæ, Linn. Polygoniæ, Juss.



they are sheathing, and gradually diminish in size towards the top of the stem; the flowers surround the branches in clusters; the corolla is divided into 6 small obtuse segments, of a greenish hue; the filaments are slender, and have oblong double anthers; the style is short, with 3 reflected stigmas; the germen is triangular, with membranous, reddish margins.

The best rhubarb is in pieces of various sizes, each of which, generally, has a hole bored through it. When cut or broken, it exhibits a mottled texture, and alternate streaks of red and grey. Its odour is peculiar, its taste nauseous, bitter, and astringent.

Water digested upon rhubarb dissolves, upon an average, about 50 per cent.; the infusion is yellow-brown, and contains mucilaginous, extractive, and astringent matter. Alcoholic tincture of rhubarb has a deep yellow colour, and a remarkably penetrating and nauseous taste and odour. It is generally stated, that rhubarb contains oxalate of lime, but I have never succeeded in obtaining oxalic acid from it, though I have procured an uncrystallisable acid, having the characters of the malic acid<sup>1</sup>. The following substances were obtained from 100 parts of the finest Turkey rhubarb:—

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Water .....                       | 8·2   |
| Gum .....                         | 31·0  |
| Resin .....                       | 10·0  |
| Extract tan and gallic acid ..... | 26·0  |
| Phosphate of lime .....           | 2·0   |
| Malate of lime .....              | 6·5   |
| Woody fibre .....                 | 16·3  |
|                                   | <hr/> |
|                                   | 100   |

A comparative table of the effects of precipitants on the aqueous infusions of Russian and Chinese, or East Indian rhubarb, will be found in Mr. Thomson's Dispensatory (p. 474.)

In selecting rhubarb, whether Russian or Chinese, the pieces should be broken, and those which are of a rusty colour, or which exhibit other appearances of decay, should be rejected. The colour of good rhubarb is bright, its texture dense, its powder bright yellow, inclining to buff.

Rhubarb is a very important article of the *Materia Medica*, and calculated to fulfil several indications. In doses of from 15 to 30 grains it is aperient, emptying the bowels without griping, and acting afterwards as an astringent; hence its peculiar use in common diarrhœa. It is best given in some

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<sup>1</sup> Quarterly Journal, vol. x. p. 288.

aromatic water, or conjoined with a few grains of powdered cinnamon, which covers its nauseous flavour. Combined with other purgatives, it presents us with a very useful series of pharmaceutical compounds. It may be given with the saline purges; and among them sulphate of potassa deserves particular commendation, especially as a purge for children, to whom from 5 to 10 grains of rhubarb, with 10 or 15 of the sulphate, may be administered as a safe and gentle evacuant. Rhubarb is also an excellent adjunct to calomel.

In small doses (from 3 to 6 grains) rhubarb acts as a tonic and astringent, and is given as such in a variety of dyspeptic affections. It is very conveniently formed into pills, with a little water only, in consequence of the gum, which is one of its components; but these pills should not be kept too long, as they may become inert by induration. In these cases it may be combined with bitter extracts, or aromatic oils or spices; and it is often advisable to conjoin it with carbonate of soda, magnesia, or other antacids.

Rhubarb speedily passes off by the kidneys, and may frequently, by the aid of an alkali, be detected in the urine within ten minutes after it has been received into the stomach; in the course of an hour or two it disappears, and after a few hours re-appears, a second absorption taking place, according to Sir Everard Home, from the colon.

In a paper published in the first volume of the Transactions of a Society for the Improvement of Medical and Chirurgical Knowledge, powdered rhubarb is recommended by Sir E. Home, as an application to ulcers, especially to those in parts which are too weak to carry on the actions necessary for their recovery<sup>1</sup>.

Official Preparations. *Infusum Rhæi. Tinct. Rhæi. Tinct. Rhæi compos.*

**RHŒADOS PETALA** — *The Petals of the Papaver Rhæas*<sup>2</sup>, or red Poppy. — This species of poppy, so common in our corn fields, has a slender hairy stem, about a foot high: the leaves are sessile, pinnatifid, serrated, and hairy; the flowers are solitary on slender hairy peduncles; the calyx consists of 2 ovate, rough, concave leaves, which fall before the petals expand; the petals are 4, large, roundish, spreading, scarlet, and sometimes having a black spot at the base; the germen is ovate and smooth, with a convex scalloped stigma which becomes an urn-shaped capsule. The capsule of the *papaver dubium* is long and narrow.

<sup>1</sup> See also Practical Obs. on the Treatment of Ulcers, &c. by the same Author, 1801.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 13. Ord. 1. Polyandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Papaveracea.



The petals of this species of poppy are only used as a colouring material in syrup.

Official Preparation. *Syrupus Rhæados.*

**RICINI OLEUM ET SEMINA**—*The Seeds of the Ricinus communis*<sup>1</sup>, and their expressed Oil.—This plant is an annual, and a native of the West Indian Islands and South America, and of several parts of Africa and Asia.

It has a round, thick, jointed stem, furrowed, glaucous below, but purplish towards the top; the leaves are petiolate, large, and divided into pointed serrated lobes; the calyx of the male flower is composed of 5 oval-pointed purplish segments, inclosing many long stamens united at the base; the female flower is at the upper part of the spike, and composed of a 3-cleft reddish calyx; the styles are 3, slender, and forked at the apex; the capsule is a trilocular root covered with rough spines, and bursting to expel the seeds, which are usually 3, of an oblong flat shape, and mottled.

The seed is extremely acrid and drastic; but they afford, on expression, a large proportion of a very pale viscid fixed oil, of a nauseous smell and taste, and leaving a very slight sensation of acrimony on the palate. In the West Indies, the oil is sometimes separated by boiling the decorticated seeds in water; in this case it is deeper-coloured, more acrid, and more liable to become rancid; generally, also, more active as a purgative. This oil (commonly called *castor oil*), is a valuable aperient; for whilst, in doses of from half an ounce to an ounce, it thoroughly evacuates the bowels, it does so with little irritation, and hence is especially useful in inflammatory cases, or where there is spasm, or where all increased action of the system is particularly to be avoided. It is, however extremely liable to nauseate to a most distressing extent, and often is rejected from the stomach; effects which may in some measure be prevented by giving it in aromatic waters. This circumstance should, however, render us cautious in giving castor oil in all cases of obstructed bowels, where vomiting may prove injurious; for instance in hernia, or where there is determination of blood to the head. The best way of taking it is simply upon water, but it may sometimes be conveniently administered in the form of emulsion, triturated with mucilage or with yolk of egg, though in this way it is more nauseous to the palate, unless blended with aromatic waters.

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 2. Ord. 8. Monœcia Monadelphia. Nat. Ord. Tricocceæ, Linn. Euphorbiæ, Juss.

R Olei Ricini f3vj.

Vitelli Ovi q. s.

Aquæ Menthæ Piper. f3x.

M. fiat haustus aperiens.

The oil should be first triturated with the yolk of egg, and the peppermint water gradually added, so as to form an even mixture. About half of the yolk of an egg will generally suffice. Half an ounce of castor oil shaken up with double the quantity of water gruel, makes a smooth emulsion, and is not very disagreeable.

Castor oil should be perfectly soluble in its bulk of alcohol of the specific gravity  $\cdot 820$ ; if it form a milky mixture, or if any portion remain undissolved, we may suspect it to be adulterated with some of the more common fixed oils.

When boiled with a little dilute nitric acid, castor oil is converted into a substance resembling hard butter; and I have known it undergo an analogous change in the bowels, and pass off in round and indurated nodules, which were at first supposed to be gall-stones.

**ROSÆ CANINÆ PULPA**—*The Pulp of the Berries of the Dog Rose, or Rosa canina*<sup>1</sup>.—This species of rose is a common ornament to our woods and hedge-rows, flowering in June; it rises 10 or 12 feet high, branching, and having a smooth bark, beset with alternate hooked prickles; the leaves are pinnated, consisting of 2 or 3 pairs with an odd one; they are oblong, serrated, pointed, growing close to the common footstalk, which is prickly and furnished at its base with a sheathy fringed expansion; the bracteæ are oval, fringed, and placed in pairs at the peduncles; the flowers are large, terminal, 2 or 3 together, and pale pink; the calyx is divided into 5 long segments; the petals are generally 5, inversely cordate; the fruit ovate, fleshy, containing about 30 long angular seeds, embedded among white silky bristles.

Of this plant, the berries only should have had a place in the *Materia Medica*, and directions for separating the pulp should have been given among the “*preparata et composita*,” under the head of *confectio rosæ caninæ*, or conserve of hips. These berries are uselessly inert, but the conserve is sometimes a good vehicle for expectorants and demulcents, in the form of linctus.

Official Preparation. *Confectio Rosæ Caninæ*.

**ROSÆ CENTIFOLIÆ PETALA** — *The Petals of the Rosa Centifolia, or Common Rose*.—Of this plant, so common

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 12. Ord. 5. Icosandria, Polygynia. Nat. Ord. Senticosæ, Linn. Rosaceæ, Juss.



in our gardens, the general characters are well known. The petals are exclusively used in the distillation of rose-water, when they afford a butyraceous oil, which is largely prepared in warm climates, and imported, especially from the East, under the name of *otto of roses*. The English oil is of a very inferior odour, and apt to become rancid; the foreign oil is often adulterated with oil of sandal wood, and the crystalline appearance of the genuine otto imitated by the addition of spermaceti.

Official Preparations. *Aqua Rosæ. Syrupus Rosæ.*

**ROSÆ GALLICÆ PETALA**—*The Petals of the Rosa Gallica, or Red Rose*.—This is also a commonly cultivated rose. The flowers are less double than those of the *centifolia*, and of a deep crimson, with abundance of yellow anthers on slender filaments. The unfolded buds are used in the preparation of the *confectio rosæ gallicæ*, which is a convenient vehicle for some medicines. Mild astringency is the only medical virtue of these petals. They afford, with the aid of a little acid, an elegant red infusion. Alkalies render them green.

Official Preparations. *Confectio Rosæ Gallicæ. Infus. Rosæ. Mel Rosæ.*

**ROSMARINI CACUMINA**—*The Tops of the Rosmarinus officinalis*<sup>1</sup>, or common Rosemary.—This evergreen plant is a native of the South of Europe, commonly cultivated in our gardens, where it flowers in April and May. Its leaves are sessile, opposite, linear, obtuse, and entire, with the margin turned back, dark green, and smooth on the upper side, and of a silvery hue on the under; the flowers are axillary and terminal; the calyx bell-shaped and 2-lipped; the upper lip entire, the under divided into 2 segments; the corolla is downy, variegated blue and white; the tube longer than the calyx, with the upper lip erect and bifid, and the lower divided into 3 segments. The stamens are longer than the upper lip, and support an oblong, blue, terminal anther: the style is filiform, and terminated by a simple stigma. The seeds are 4, oblong, and lodged in the bottom of the calyx.

Distilled with water or alcohol, the tops impart an agreeable fragranc, from the essential oil which they contain. A very weak infusion of fresh rosemary leaves furnishes a pleasant substitute for tea, and is particularly agreeable to some dyspeptic stomachs and nervous habits.

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<sup>1</sup> *Cl. 2. Ord. 1. Diandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Labiatae.*

A pound of fresh rosemary is said to afford about a drachm of essential oil.

Officinal Preparations. *Oleum Rosmarini. Spiritus Rosmarini.*

**RUBIÆ RADIX**—*The Root of the Rubia tinctorum*<sup>1</sup>—*Madder*.—This plant is a native of the South of Europe: its root is perennial, long, thick, fibrous, red externally, yellowish towards the centre; the stalks quadrangular, slender, procumbent, jointed, 4 or 5 inches long, and covered with short hooked points, by which they adhere to neighbouring plants: the leaves are elliptical, pointed, rough, ciliated, and placed in whorls of 4 or 5. The flowers are small, terminal, yellow; the calyx is divided at the mouth into 4 teeth: the corolla is small, and cut into 4 oval segments. The filaments are short, and support simple erect anthers: the germen is double, and below the corolla; the style is slender, and divides into 2 globular stigmas: the fruit consists of two berries, each containing an oval seed.

Madder root is highly valuable as a dye stuff, but is not entitled to much notice as an article of the *Materia Medica*, where it ranks with the astringent bitters. It tinges the urine of a red colour, and the bones of animals long fed upon it acquire the same hue, for which reason only it has been very absurdly recommended as a remedy in rickets. Sydenham thought highly of a decoction of madder as a remedy in jaundice, but probably upon wrong grounds: it is sometimes extolled as an emmenagogue, but as such is perfectly inert. A peculiar colouring principle called *alizarin* has been obtained from it.

**RUTÆ FOLIA**—*The Leaves of the Ruta graveolens*<sup>2</sup>, or *Rue*.—Rue is commonly cultivated in our gardens: it is a native of the South of Europe: its root sends forth several shrubby stalks, covered with rough grey bark: the leaves consist of double sets of irregular pinnæ of a glaucous colour: the flowers are produced in a branched corymbus, on subdividing peduncles: the calyx divides into 4 or 5 pointed leaves: the corolla consists of 4 or 5 petals, hollow, dentated at the edges, and yellow. The filaments are yellow, tapering, spreading, and generally lodged in the cavity of the petals: the anthers are yellow and quadrangular; the style short, the stigma simple, and the germen large, oval, green, rough, and marked by 4 furrows: the seeds are rough, angular, and black.

The nauseous, but at the same time strong and penetrating odour of rue, places it among the antihysterics; and

<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 4. *Ord.* 1. Tetrandria Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Rubiaciæ.

<sup>2</sup> *Cl.* 10. *Ord.* 1. Decandria Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Rutaceæ.



it is described as antispasmodic and emmenagogue. In all these respects, it is of very uncertain and unimportant efficacy. —(See *Confectio Rutæ*.) According to Cartheuser, 320 pounds of rue afford 1 pound of essential oil.

Official Preparation. *Confectio Rutæ*.

**SABINÆ FOLIA**—*The Leaves of the Juniperus Sabina*<sup>1</sup>, or *Savine*.—This plant is a native of the South of Europe, but frequently cultivated as an ornamental shrub in our gardens. Its bark is reddish-brown: it has numerous subdivided branches: the leaves are small, erect, firm, opposite, and wholly invest the twigs: the flowers are male and female on different plants: the calyces of the male flowers stand in a conical catkin, consisting of 3 opposite flowers, placed in a triple row, and a single flower at the end: at the base of each flower is a broad scale, fixed laterally to a columnar pedicel: the filaments in the terminating flower are 3, tapering, united at the base, and with simple anthers: in the lateral flowers the filaments are scarcely perceptible, and the anthers are fixed to the scale of the calyx. The female flowers are composed of 3 small, permanent, scaly segments, growing to the germen: the petals are 3, stiff, sharp, and permanent; the germen supports 3 styles, supplied with simple stigmas; the fruit is a round, tuberculated berry, containing 3 small seeds.

The odour of savine is strong and peculiar, its taste acrid and bitter; its active qualities appear chiefly to reside in an essential oil, of which it affords a considerable relative quantity on distillation. It is, perhaps, the most powerful uterine stimulant of the *Materia Medica*, and is occasionally administered in amenorrhœa, though always requiring the utmost caution, lest it induce inflammatory action. There are some other disorders in which savine has been employed, but its most important use is as an external stimulant, especially with the view of keeping up the discharge from excoriated or vesicated surfaces. The dried leaves in powder are sometimes sprinkled upon indolent and unhealthy sores; but the *ceratum sabinæ* of the *Pharmacopœia* is the most generally useful form for the application of this remedy.

Official Preparation. *Ceratum Sabinæ*.

**SACCHARUM**—*Sugar*.—Sugar is the produce of the *saccharum officinarum*<sup>2</sup>, or common sugar-cane, a native of Africa and the East and West Indies. Its root is perennial, knotted, and fibrous, and sends up several jointed stems, 8 or

<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 22. *Ord.* 13. *Diœcia Monadelphia. Nat. Ord. Coniferæ.*

<sup>2</sup> *Cl.* 3. *Ord.* 2. *Triandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Gramina.*

10 feet high : the leaves are long, ensiform, and embrace the stem : the flowers are small, and in terminal panicles, 2 or 3 feet long, subdivided in spikes, with flexuose down, enclosing and concealing the flowers : the seed is oblong, and ripens in the valves of the flowers.

Sugar is an agreeable and nutritious article of diet ; in some of its forms gently laxative ; but it scarcely belongs to the list of medicines. In pharmacy its chief use is to confer palatability on unpleasant mixtures, and as a vehicle for active remedies. The components of sugar differ little in their relative proportions from those of gum and starch ; indeed the latter substance is convertible both into sugar and gum. According to Gay Lussac, 100 parts of sugar contain—

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Carbon .....   | 42·47 |
| Hydrogen ..... | 6·90  |
| Oxygen .....   | 50·63 |
|                | <hr/> |
|                | 100   |

**SAGAPENUM**—*The Gum Resin of a non-descript plant.*—This is probably the produce of a species of *ferula*<sup>1</sup>. It is imported from Smyrna and Aleppo. It is generally in masses made up of agglutinated pieces, of a pale and dark brown colour. Its taste is warm and alliaceous, resembling weak assafœtida. Its use corresponds with that of the other fetid gums.

According to Brandes, it consists of—

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Volatile oil, resembling that of assafœtida .....   | 3·73  |
| Bitter resin, soluble in ether, and which is rendered blue by warm<br>muriatic acid ..... | 47·91 |
| Tasteless resin insoluble in ether .....  | 2·37  |
| Gum .....   | 32·76 |
| Bassorin .....  | 4·48  |
| Malate, sulphate and phosphate of lime .....  | 1·10  |
| Impurities .....  | 4·35  |
| Water .....   | 3·30  |
|   | <hr/> |
|   | 100   |

Officinal Preparation. *Pilul. Galban. compos.*

**SALICIS CORTEX**—*The Bark of the Salix caprea*<sup>2</sup>.—Several species of willow bark have at different times been introduced into the Materia Medica, and they are useful tonics and astringents. A strong decoction is the best form of exhibition ; and it may be rendered palatable by any aromatic tincture, or by the addition of a few bruised cloves, added just before the decoction is strained.

<sup>1</sup> According to Geiger, the *Ferula Persica*.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 22. Ord. 2. Diœcia Diandria. Nat. Ord. Amentaceæ.



℞ Cort. Salicis contus. ℥ij.  
 Aquæ oct. ij. decoque ad octarium j. et cola.  
 ℞ Colati liquoris f℥vij.  
 Tincturæ Aurantii f℥vj.  
 Syrupi Aurantii f℥ij.  
 M. sumat quartam partem ter die.

A peculiar crystallisable principle (not alkaline) has been obtained from willow bark, and introduced into medicine under the name of *salicin*: a similar principle has also been found in the bark of the poplar. It has been proposed as a substitute for quinia, but its experience does not justify the idea of their resemblance.

**SAMBUCI FLORES**—*The Flowers of the Sambucus niger*<sup>1</sup>—*Elder Flowers*.—The elder is a common indigenous tree, covered by rough grey bark. The leaves are pinnated, composed of 5 oval, pointed, serrated leaflets; the flowers are in terminal cymes, yellow, with the calyx superior and permanent, and the corolla monopetalous, rotate, and somewhat convex.

Water distilled from elder flowers acquires their peculiar and rather agreeable odour, and is frequently used as a vehicle for various ophthalmic applications. The *unguentum sambuci* is lard similarly scented; but no efficacy is in either case derived from the elder flowers.

Officinal Preparations. *Aqua Sambuci. Unguentum Sambuci.*

**SAPO DURUS**.—The *hard soap* used for pharmaceutical purposes is compounded of soda and vegetable oil, generally olive oil. It is used internally as a remedy for uric gravel, and, when taken in large doses, has been known to prove singularly effectual; but it is not generally commendable in such cases, and is extremely apt to impair the digestive powers of the stomach, and lay the foundation of obstinate dyspepsia. Soap is an excellent addition to pills which are intended to be kept for any time; it prevents, to a considerable extent, their induration, and renders them more soluble in the stomach; it also modifies the efficacy of several of the purgatives, probably by increasing the solubility of their active parts. Soap is a good addition to spirituous liniments; it renders them less rapidly vaporisable, and better adapted for friction upon the part affected.

Soap is decomposed by acids, by the greater number of salts, and by several vegetable decoctions and infusions; and

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 3. Pentandria Trigynia. Nat. Ord. Caprifoliæ.

as being almost always at hand, is useful occasionally as an antidote to some poisons, such as metallic salts, acids, &c. : in these cases a tea-cupful of a strong solution of soap in warm water should be swallowed as soon as possible ; if it produce vomiting, the dose should be repeated, and it will prove more effectual. Added to plasters, soap prevents their induration.

Soap, scraped into thin shavings, and dried by a gentle heat, may easily be reduced to a fine powder by pounding and sifting : it is frequently used in this state as an ingredient in cleansing hand powders ; such, for instance, is the *pulvis saponis mundificans* of Niemann's *Pharmacopœia Batava*, composed of 12 ounces of finely-powdered Spanish soap, 2 ounces of effloresced carbonate of soda, 3 ounces of powdered orris root, 2 pounds of fine almond meal, and of the essential oils of lemons, lavender, and bergamotte, each 40 drops, with 10 drops of oil of cloves.

The common soaps are compounds of margaric and oleic acids, with alkaline bases, but their composition cannot be explained without entering into the details of the chemical history of the different kinds of fat, for which I must refer the reader to my *Manual of Chemistry*, vol. ii. 3d edition.

Official Preparations. *Pilulæ Saponis cum Opio*. *Pilul. Scillæ compos.* *Emplastrum Saponis*. *Ceratum Saponis*. *Linim. Saponis compos.* *Extractum Colocynth. compos.*

**SAPO MOLLIS**—*Soft Soap*.—This is made with potassa instead of soda. The common soft soap of the shops, which is made with potash-ley and tallow, is an excellent detergent for the destruction of vermin.

**SARSAPARILLÆ RADIX**—*The Root of the Smilax Sarsaparilla*<sup>1</sup>.—This is a perennial, native of South America : the root is divided into pedicels, about as thick as a quill, 3 or 4 feet long, brown externally, and paler or white within : the stems are long, slender, scandent, and beset with spines ; the leaves alternate, ovate, pointed, and petiolate, with tendrils at the base ; the flowers are 3 or 4 together, upon a common peduncle. The male calyx is bell-shaped, with oblong segments, reflected at the points : the filaments are 6, simple, with oblong anthers : the female calyx is also bell-shaped : the germen is ovate, supporting 3 small styles, with oblong reflexed stigmas : the fruit is a round, 3-celled berry, containing 2 round seeds.

Several kinds of sarsaparilla root are occasionally imported from South America. That which has generally been preferred

<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 22. *Ord.* 6. *Diœcia* Hexandria. *Nat. Ord.* Sarmentaceæ, *Linn.* Asparagi, *Juss.*



is in long slender runners, issuing from a common stem : it is bound up in bundles of various sizes, which very frequently contain extraneous substances in their interior, or faggots of rotten and decayed roots. This variety is distinguished as *Lisbon sarsaparilla* ; it is the produce of the Brazilian settlements of Pura and Ataranham, in South America <sup>1</sup>. When sarsaparilla is cut longitudinally, it is found to consist of a soft, white, and often starch-like substance, covered by a brown bark, and surrounding a central woody fibre. The white matter of the root has generally been considered as the active part ; its taste is mucilaginous, and very slightly acrid ; when long boiled in water it is for the most part dissolved. The bitterness and, according to Mr. Pope, the efficacy of sarsaparilla, resides in the bark, the whole of the virtues of which are extracted by infusion or decoction in water. He considers what is called *Jamaica* or *red* sarsaparilla as preferable to the other varieties, in consequence of the large quantity of extractive matter which it affords. The *Honduras* sarsaparilla is not so red as the Lisbon, its bark being dirty brown or grey, and it is usually more fibrous and pithy : that from Vera Cruz is very inferior.

The virtues of sarsaparilla have been very differently estimated by different persons, and at different times : the evidence of the best practitioners is, however, decidedly in its favour, as a valuable *alterative* remedy ; for, in large doses, and sufficiently persevered in, it has cured cutaneous eruptions, nodes, anomalous pains in the bones and joints, and other symptoms which arise in certain constitutions, and are often considered as the joint effect of mercury and of the venereal virus, though very frequently quite independent of either. In such cases we have ample testimony in its favour, though as an antidote to syphilis, for which it seems originally to have been introduced, it deserves no kind of confidence. Mr. Pearson observes, that its beneficial effects are often demonstrated in the treatment of foul untractable spreading sores, and in more than one form of scrofula <sup>2</sup>. In some of those debilitated states of the body, announcing a broken constitution, sarsaparilla has been effectually prescribed. It requires to be taken in large doses, such, for instance, as a pint of the strong decoction daily, or an ounce of the powder. Concentrated syrup and liquid extract of sarsaparilla are also good formulæ ; but the common extract of the Pharmacopœia does not always possess the efficacy which might be expected, perhaps in consequence of occasional carelessness in its preparation.

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<sup>1</sup> Pope on Sarsaparilla, Med. Chir. Trans. vol. xii. p. 345.

<sup>2</sup> Obs. on the Effects of various Articles of the Materia Medica in the Cure of Lues Venerea, &c.

In debilitated habits sarsaparilla sometimes excites profuse perspiration, an effect which may, to a certain extent, be prevented by combining with it small doses of dilute sulphuric acid, where such a remedy is not contra-indicated. Sometimes it acts upon the bowels; but generally none of these bad effects result from its use, and in the cases alluded to it relieves pain, the patient gets comfort and sleep, and often singularly acquires flesh during its use.—(See *decoction, extract, and syrup of sarsaparilla*, in the second part of this work.)

Upon what the activity of sarsaparilla depends, it is difficult to say; but, generally speaking, that which, when chewed, has the most of its peculiar pungent flavour, is to be preferred: this seems to depend upon the presence of a distinct extractive matter, soluble in alcohol; not upon any alcaloid, (*parigline* or *smilacia*,) nor upon the starchy matter which in some sarsaparilla is very abundant, in others very deficient, yet both equally active. The presence, therefore, of this extractive, and the general freshness and healthiness of the root, should guide us in the selection and purchase of sarsaparilla. All black, discoloured, tasteless parcels, and those which are salt from injury from sea-water, should be rejected. Cannobio and Pfaff have each given a chemical analysis of sarsaparilla, which I subjoin to show how much the different species found in commerce may vary.

## CANNOBIO.

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Bitter pungent resin ..... | 2·8   |
| Gummy extractive .....     | 5·5   |
| Starch .....               | 54·2  |
| Woody fibre .....          | 27·8  |
| Water and loss .....       | 9·7   |
|                            | <hr/> |
|                            | 100   |

## PFAFF.

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Pungent extractive .....      | 2·5   |
| Bitter extractive .....       | 3·7   |
| Resin .....                   | 2·0   |
| Common extractive .....       | 9·4   |
| Gum, starch, and albumen..... | 3·6   |
| Woody fibre .....             | 75·0  |
| Water and loss .....          | 3·8   |
|                               | <hr/> |
|                               | 100   |

There can be little doubt that one of these analyses refers to the *mealy*, the other to the *fibrous* sarsaparilla root.

Officinal Preparations. *Extractum Sarsaparillæ. Syrupus Sarsaparillæ. Decoctum Sarsaparillæ. Decoct. Sarsap. compos.*



**SASSAFRAS LIGNUM ET RADIX**—*The Wood and Root of the Laurus Sassafras*<sup>1</sup>.—This species of laurel is a native of North America: it is cultivated in Jamaica, and bears the cold of our climate. It has a rough grey or brown bark: the leaves vary; some are oval and entire, others lobed: they are deep green, downy beneath, petiolate, and alternate: the flowers are small, and in panicles: the corolla is divided into 6 narrow, convex, yellowish segments, inclosing in the male flowers nine stamens with yellow anthers. The hermaphrodite flowers are on a separate plant, and have 6 stamens and a simple style. The berry is oval.

Sassafras was at one time regarded as powerfully anti-syphilitic: modern experience has, however, amply shewn the fallacy of such an opinion, and it is now chiefly used as a diaphoretic or diuretic in the form of decoction. It has a fragrant smell and a warm aromatic flavour, derived from essential oil, which is obtained by distillation with water in the proportion of about two drachms from every pound of wood.

Gout, chronic rheumatism, and cutaneous affections, are the cases in which decoction or infusion of sassafras is usually prescribed, and generally in conjunction with guaiacum, sarsaparilla, and other analogous alteratives: here, however, it is a remedy of most doubtful efficacy.

Official Preparations. *Oleum Sassafras. Decoct. Sarsap. compos. Decoct. Guaiaci compos.*

**SCAMMONIÆ GUMMI RESINA**—*The Gum Resin of the Convolvulus Scammonia*<sup>2</sup>.—This is a common plant in Syria. It has a long, tapering root, sending up long twining stems, with smooth, bright-green, arrow-shaped leaves, on long footstalks: the flowers are in pairs upon the pedicels, consisting of a double calyx of 4 emarginated leaflets in each row: the corolla is yellow, funnel-shaped, and plaited. The capsule is 3 or 4-celled, and contains small seeds.

The root of this plant furnishes, by incision, a milky juice, which concretes into the scammony of commerce, a substance chiefly imported from Aleppo. It occurs in very various states of purity; and an extremely inferior and evidently adulterated article is brought from Smyrna in cakes. Aleppo scammony comes into the market in packages called *drums*, weighing about 100 pounds each: it is massive, of a black or dark grey colour externally, and, when broken, exhibiting in some parts

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 9. Ord. 1. Enneandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Lauri.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Convolvuli.

of its interior a grey or greenish-brown tint and a softer texture. It has a caseous odour, which should be strong and fresh, and it should *lactify*, or easily rub into a milky mixture with water. Those drums which are very soft in the interior, of a pale or dirty green colour, and of a fetid or nauseous odour, or those which are black and inodorous, and which do not become superficially milky when wetted and rubbed, are of doubtful purity. It is said that a factitious article, composed of jalap, senna, manna, gamboge, and ivory black, is sometimes sold for scammony. The colour of good scammony in powder is light greenish-grey.

According to Bouillon-Lagrange and Vogel, Aleppo scammony consists of—

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Resin .....                     | 60    |
| Bitter extractive.....          | 2     |
| Gum .....                       | 3     |
| Insoluble matter and sand ..... | 35    |
|                                 | <hr/> |
|                                 | 100   |

100 parts of Smyrna scammony afforded—

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Resin .....                           | 39    |
| Bitter extractive.....                | 5     |
| Insoluble matter and impurities ..... | 66    |
|                                       | <hr/> |
|                                       | 100   |

Scammony is a very useful drastic purge in conjunction with others of the same class, being rarely, if ever, given alone, for then it is apt to gripe. It enters into several of the compound purgatives of the Pharmacopœia, and is a good auxiliary to calomel, especially for cleansing the bowels of children when loaded, as they sometimes are, with viscid mucous slime: for this purpose, the old *pulvis basilicus*, composed of equal parts of calomel, scammony, and jalap, is an effective mixture; but it will not always remain upon the stomach. Proof spirit is a good solvent for scammony, but it is rarely used in tinctures. Its average dose is from 5 to 15 grains. Its activity resides in its resinous part; the residue is inert. In some old Pharmacopœiæ, a variety of methods of correcting the acrimony of scammony are described, and to such preparations they gave the name of *diagrydia*.

Official Preparations. *Confectio Scammoniacæ*. *Pulvis Scammoniacæ compos.* *Pulv. Sennæ compos.* *Extract. Colocynth. compos.*

**SCILLÆ RADIX**—*The Root of the Scilla maritima*<sup>1</sup>—*Squill Root*.—The squill is a native of Spain, Sicily, and Syria,

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 6. Ord. 1. Hexandria Monogynia.





growing in sandy places near the sea. It has a large, perennial, bulbous-coated root, abounding in viscid juice, and having many white fibres, which issue from its base: the stem is round, smooth, succulent, and 2 or 3 feet high: the leaves are ensiform, radical, smooth, and of a deep green: the flowers are whitish, and produced in a long spike upon purplish peduncles. They appear in April and May. The bracteæ are linear, twisted, and deciduous: there is no calyx: the corolla consists of 6 ovate petals, spreading, and with a reddish mark in the centre: the 6 filaments are tapering, shorter than the corolla, and furnished with oblong anthers: the germen is round, supporting a simple style with a simple stigma. The capsule is oblong, smooth, marked with 3 furrows, and divided into 3 cells, which contain many round seeds.

The roots of the squill are imported from the Levant, packed in wet sand; they have a nauseously bitter and very acrid flavour, and are generally cut into slices, and dried for pharmaceutical use; an operation which ought not to be performed at a temperature exceeding  $212^{\circ}$ . The peculiarities of squill have been referred to a distinct bitter principle, called by Vogel *scillitin*<sup>1</sup>; according to whom 100 parts of the root consist of—

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Scillitin, and a little sugar .....  | 35  |
| Tannin .....                         | 24  |
| Gum .....                            | 6   |
| Fibre, with citrate of potassa ..... | 30  |
| Loss .....                           | 5   |
|                                      | 100 |

There are two varieties, the *red* and the *white* squill, which do not appear to differ in composition: the latter is, however, generally preferred for medical use.

In large doses, squill is purgative and emetic; but it is chiefly employed in smaller doses as a powerful expectorant, and as a diuretic, in conjunction with other remedies. From half a grain to a grain of powdered squill, with three grains of ammoniacum, may be given every six hours to increase and facilitate expectoration; in some cases it may properly be conjoined with the fetid gum resins; in others, where there is heat and febrile tendency, it may be given with antimonials and saline remedies; and as a diuretic, with calomel, digitalis, opium, and other adjuncts, as already mentioned. About 30 drops of the tincture of squills of the Pharmacopœia may be regarded as equivalent to 1 grain of the dried root, and this is the most

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<sup>1</sup> Annales de Chimie, tom. lxxxiii.

convenient form for its administration when conjoined with liquids.

In cases attended by any degree of active inflammation, squills should scarcely be administered, unless accompanied by aperients and diaphoretics, and generally also by venesection.

Excessive vomiting and purging, strangury and bloody urine and stools, acute pain of the abdomen, convulsions, and cold sweats, are the symptoms which are said to be produced by an overdose of squills.

An ointment of squills has occasionally been recommended for the dispersion of indolent tumours; but it is a clumsy stimulant, admitting of an infinity of good substitutes.

Half an ounce of oxymel of squills is often used as an emetic in cases where the bronchiæ are much loaded with viscid mucus, and in the chronic coughs of old people.

Officinal Preparations. *Acetum Scillæ. Oxymel Scillæ. Pilul. Scillæ compos. Tinctura Scillæ.*

**SENEGÆ RADIX**—*The Root of the Polygala Senega*—*Rattle-snake Root*<sup>1</sup>.—This plant is a North American perennial. Its root sends up several stems about a foot high, erect, slender, round, smooth, and of a reddish colour. The leaves are petiolate, alternate, lanceolate, acute, and pale green; the flowers are small, white, papilionaceous, and in terminal spikes; the calyx is divided into 3 persistent segments; the capsule is inversely cordate, containing several small seeds.

Senega root is pale-brown and wrinkled, and its virtues reside in the exterior cortical portion; the central woody part is inert. Its acrimony manifests itself when chewed, and it promotes a copious flow of saliva. Its infusion reddens litmus, a property depending, according to Peschier, upon the presence of a peculiar acid.

Senega has been extolled as a powerfully stimulant diuretic and expectorant, in doses of 10 to 30 or 40 grains in powder; and in larger doses it is said to vomit and purge: it is, however, one of those numerous articles of the *Materia Medica*, the use of which is limited to a few individuals who think well of it, whilst it is never prescribed by the generality of practitioners. In palsy and lethargy, it is inferior to many other stimulants; and as a sialagogue gargle, pyrethrum is more effectual. To promote the separation of the tracheal films of coagulum in croup, a strong decoction of senega, in the proportion of two ounces of the bruised root to a pint of water, is

<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 17. *Ord.* 3. *Diadelphia Octandria. Nat. Ord. Lomentaceæ, Linn. Pediculares, Juss.*



said to have been usefully employed, frequently taken in small quantities into the mouth. As an antidote to the effects of the bite of the rattle-snake, it may possibly be useful where other stimulants are not to be had, especially in its recent state; but where ammonia, ether, brandy, and other analogous remedies, are at hand, senega goes for nothing.

A decoction of senega retains its acrimony; but alcohol is the most effectual solvent of its resinous principle, in which its virtues appear to reside.

Official Preparation. *Decoctum Senegæ*.

According to Gehlen, 100 parts of senega roots contain—

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Acrid extract (senegin)..... | 6·15  |
| Bitter resin .....           | 7·50  |
| Sweetish extractive .....    | 26·85 |
| Gum .....                    | 9·50  |
| Lignin .....                 | 46·   |
|                              | <hr/> |
|                              | 100   |

SENNÆ FOLIA—*The Leaves of the Cassia Senna*<sup>1</sup>.—

This is an annual, about 2 feet high, with an erect branching stem; the leaves are alternate and pinnate, with 2 narrow, pointed stipules at their base: each leaf has 5 or 6 pairs of leaflets, which are sessile, oval, pointed, barely an inch long, and one-fourth broad, and of a dingy yellowish-green colour. The flowers are in axillary spikes, and of a yellow colour: the calyx consists of 5 narrow, obtuse, deciduous leaflets; the petals are roundish, concave, and entire, the 3 lower ones being larger than the 2 upper: the lower filaments, which are longer than the others, are furnished with curved anthers: the germen is long and flat, the style short and curved, and the stigma obtuse. The fruit is an ovate, reniform, compressed legume, transversely striated, bivalve, with 6 or 9 cells divided by thin partitions, each containing an oblong seed.

The European market is supplied with senna leaves from Alexandria, whither they are brought from Upper Egypt; and after having been mixed and adulterated with leaves of the *cynanchum oleafolium*, or *argel*, and occasionally also with the leaves of bladder senna, box, and some others, they are packed in bales for exportation.

It is difficult to describe the characters which should guide us in the selection and purchase of senna; among them we may enumerate a bright fresh colour, and an agreeable smell, somewhat resembling that of green tea. It should not be too

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 10. Ord. 1. Decandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Lomentaceæ, Linn. Leguminosæ, Juss.

largely mixed with stalks, seed pods, and other extraneous matter, nor very much broken, nor very dusty.

Senna has, when chewed, a nauseous flavour quite peculiar to itself; with boiling water, (which, according to Mr. Thomson, dissolves about a third of the weight of the leaves employed,) it affords a brown infusion, very nauseous both in smell and taste, and liable to decomposition. Proof spirit dissolves a larger portion of senna, and forms a brown active tincture. Alcohol and ether yield green solutions.

Senna has been chemically examined by Bouillon la Grange<sup>1</sup>. The effects of various re-agents on infusion of senna have been described by Mr. Battley<sup>2</sup>. According to Lassaigne and Feneulle, the activity of senna, as a purge, depends upon the presence of a peculiar vegetable principle, which they have termed *cathartine*, and which may be procured as follows:—To an aqueous decoction of senna leaves add subacetate of lead as long as it occasions a precipitate, which is to be washed, diffused through water, and subjected to a current of sulphuretted hydrogen gas. Separate by filtration, and reject the precipitated hydrosulphuret of lead. Evaporate the clear liquor to dryness, digest the residue in alcohol, and again evaporate to dryness. This alcoholic residue contains acetate of potassa, which may be decomposed by the addition of sulphuric acid, and the sulphate of potassa separated by filtration. Then add acetate of lead to precipitate the sulphuric acid, and pass sulphuretted hydrogen through the liquid; filter, evaporate, and cathartine remains. It is deliquescent, and uncrystallisable, of a reddish colour, a bitter taste, insoluble in ether, but soluble in water and alcohol<sup>3</sup>.

The above process is so circuitous, and the vegetable principle subjected to such a variety of agents, that no dependence can be placed upon the supposed existence of its product as a distinct pre-existing principle of senna.

Senna is rarely to be depended upon alone, for it generally occasions griping, spasmodic, and flatulent pains of the bowels, without duly evacuating them; but it is a truly valuable auxiliary to other purgatives, and in many such mixtures clears the bowels with speed and certainty. The infusion is the best form for its exhibition; and ginger, as in the *infusum sennæ compositum*, is a good addition. It should be recently prepared, for if kept exposed to air it undergoes a change, and is said to be more apt to gripe. To these formulæ the tincture of senna may be added, and the following is one of the many modes of prescribing them:—

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<sup>1</sup> See Annales de Chimie, vol. xxxvi. p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> London Medical Repository, vol. xv. p. 169.

<sup>3</sup> Annales de Chimie et Physique, tom. xvi. p. 16.



R Infus. Sennæ f̄iv.  
 Magnes. Sulphatis 3j.  
 Aquæ Menthæ sativ. f̄3ij.  
 Tincturæ Sennæ f̄3ss.

M.umat cochlear. iv. mane primo et repet. post horas tres, si opus sit.

The addition of syrups to such mixtures only renders them more nauseous, without assisting their efficacy : half an ounce of manna is, however, occasionally added to the above. Soluble tartar and infusion of senna form a good active purge, and pimento water covers much of the disagreeable flavour.

R Potassæ Tartratis 3j.  
 Infus. Sennæ compos.  
 Aquæ Pimento āā f̄3vj.  
 Tinct. Jalapæ f̄3j.

M. fiat haustus laxans.

Official Preparations. *Infusum Sennæ. Tinctura Sennæ. Confectio Sennæ. Pulvis Sennæ compositus. Syrupus Sennæ.*

SERPENTARIÆ RADIX—*The Root of the Aristolochia Serpentaria*<sup>1</sup>—*Virginian Snake-root*.—The root of this plant, which is a native of Virginia, consists of many small fibres, issuing from a common trunk ; they are brown externally and whitish within ; the stems are slender, round, crooked, jointed, and 8 or 10 inches high ; the leaves are heart-shaped, veined, entire, and stand upon long footstalks ; there is no calyx ; the flowers are monopetalous, solitary, purplish-brown, and placed upon long, sheathed, jointed peduncles ; the corolla is tubular, irregular, distended at the base, contracted and twisted at the middle, and spreading at the extremity ; it has no filaments, but the 6 anthers are attached to the under side of the stigma ; the germen is oblong, angular, and placed below the corolla ; the style is very short ; the stigma is roundish and divided into 6 parts ; the capsule is hexagonal, and separated into 6 cells, containing several small flat seeds.

The root as it occurs in trade is small, fibrous, and generally very dirty. The freshest and cleanest samples are to be preferred. Its odour is aromatic ; its taste pungent, and somewhat bitter. Distilled with water, it affords a small quantity of fragrant essential oil, and the resulting decoction is warm and bitter. A strong infusion is the best form for its administration, in the proportion of one ounce of the bruised root macerated for four hours in a pint of boiling water, and strained.

R Infus. Serpentariæ f̄3iss.  
 Pulv. Serpentariæ gr. x.  
 Syrup. Aurant. f̄3ss.

M. ft. haustus ter die sumendus.

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 20. Ord. 4. Gynandria Hexandria. Nat. Ord. Sarmentaceæ, Linn. Aristolochiæ, Juss.

In this way it proves a slightly diaphoretic tonic. In typhoid fevers it is a good adjunct to cinchona, for the powder of which its infusion may be used as a vehicle. *Serpentaria* is, however, little thought of in this country; the German physicians prize it more highly, and use it as a common tonic in cases of convalescence where such remedies are indicated, and especially where nervous debility has been predominant.

According to Bucholz, *serpentaria* root contains—

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Volatile oil .....      | 0·50  |
| Bitter extractive ..... | 4·70  |
| Gummy extractive .....  | 18·10 |
| Greenish resin .....    | 2·38  |
| Water.....              | 14·48 |
| Lignin .....            | 62·40 |

---

100

Official Preparations. *Tinctura Serpentariæ. Tinct. Cinchon. compos.*

SEVUM—*Mutton Suet*.—The only pharmaceutical use of suet is as an ingredient in certain plasters and ointments.

SIMAROUBÆ CORTEX—*The Bark of the Quassia Simarouba*<sup>1</sup>, a native of the West Indies.—This is a tall tree, with a grey spotted bark; the leaves are pinnate, and consist of 2 to 9 leaflets, placed alternately on short petioles, elliptical, acute, smooth, deep-green above and pale beneath; the flowers are male and female on the same axillary panicles; in both the calyx is monophyllous and 5-toothed; the petals, which are yellowish-white, are lanceolate, and inserted into the calyx; the nectary in the male is a small scale attached to the inner part of the base of each filament; and the same in the female, except that the scales are arranged in a circle; in the male, the filaments are of the length of the corolla; in the female are 5 connate germens, with striated styles and spreading stigmas; the fruit consists of 5 small, ovate, black, 1-celled berries, on a common receptacle.

*Simarouba* bark is imported in long and very fibrous flat pieces, stripped off the root. It furnishes an astringent, bitter, and mucilaginous infusion, and is occasionally prescribed in this form in diarrhœa depending upon dyspepsia; it has, however, nothing to recommend it in preference to the numerous analogous articles of the *Materia Medica*: some have praised it beyond its deserts in intermittent fever, and it was more especially celebrated as a remedy for dysentery. It is a drug of very questionable utility.

Official Preparation. *Infusum Simaroubæ.*

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 10. Ord. 1. Decandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Magnolia.



**SINAPIS SEMINA**—*The Seed of the Sinapis nigra*<sup>1</sup>—*Mustard*.—This indigenous plant is abundantly cultivated for use; it flowers in June; its root is annual; its stem, erect, smooth, and about 3 feet high, divided into numerous branches; the leaves are of various shapes: those near the root are large, cordate, and lobed at the base; the upper leaves are narrow and more entire; the flowers are yellow, and form terminal spikes; the calyx consists of 4 deciduous leaves, and the corolla of 4 petals, roundish at their extremities, flat, spreading, and standing in opposite directions upon upright narrow claws; the filaments are erect, tapering, and furnished with simple anthers; the germen is cylindrical, and the style is crowned with a knobbed stigma; the pods are long and smooth, protuberant at the base, 2-celled, and valved, and contain numerous globular, dark seeds.

The acrimony of mustard-seeds appears to reside in a volatile oil, which may be obtained by distillation; they also yield fixed oil by pressure, and abound in mucilage, starch, and a principle analogous to gluten, which affords ammonia on decomposition.

Mustard-seed is a valuable condiment and stimulant; in the dose of about 2 drachms, coarsely powdered, it generally proves emetic. Applied externally, in a poultice, it acts as a rubefacient, and excites considerable cuticular inflammation; hence the application of *sinapisms* to the legs and feet in certain cases of determination of blood to the head.

The bright yellow powder, sold under the name of *flour of mustard*, and used at the table, is a compound of powdered black and pale mustard-seed, Cayenne pepper, wheat-flour, and turmeric.

A portion of sulphur may be detected in the varieties of the mustard-seed, and when mustard, as prepared for the table, putrifies, it exhales the odour of sulphuretted hydrogen.

Official Preparation. *Cataplasma Sinapis*.

**SODÆ MURIAS**—*Muriate of Soda*—*Sea Salt*.—We shall have to speak at length of the composition of this substance in the second part of this work, as also to point out its various and important uses in pharmaceutical chemistry. As an article of the *Materia Medica*, it is chiefly limited to external application as a stimulant, and strong brine has been successfully applied to indolent tumours. The benefit derived from sea bathing, and especially from warm sea-baths, is partly to be ascribed to the cuticular stimulation excited by the salt.

There are several varieties of salt, known under different

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 15. Ord. 2. *Tetradynamia Siliquosa*. Nat. Ord. *Cruciferae*, Juss.

names in commerce, but they differ from each other chiefly in respect to aggregation and form, and are, chemically speaking, identical. Those kinds of salt which deliquesce considerably in moist weather, generally derive that quality from containing muriate of magnesia.

Common salt is scarcely more soluble in hot than in cold water, requiring about two and a half parts for its solution. Its use and advantages as a condiment are universally known—as a medicine, a draught of salt-water taken in the morning fasting has been successfully resorted to as a remedy for worms—even the tape-worm has been thus expelled; practitioners, however, generally resort to more effective anthelmintics. Externally applied, salt and water will sometimes disperse indolent glandular tumours and wens: a piece of flannel moistened with brine should, in such cases, be kept continually on the part.

A pound of salt dissolved in a gallon of water produces a brine nearly equivalent in strength to sea-water, of which a pint contains—

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Common salt.....           | 180·5 |
| Muriate of magnesia.....   | 18·3  |
| ———— lime .....            | 5·7   |
| Sulphate of magnesia ..... | 21·6  |
|                            | <hr/> |
|                            | 226·1 |

When meat has been long salted, it becomes indurated and proportionately indigestible and less fit for nutrition, while the salt stimulates the excretions, thus inducing debility and scorbutic affections.

**SODÆ SUBBORAS**—*Subborate of Soda*—*Borax*.—This salt is chiefly imported from India in an impure state, under the name of *tincal*; it is purified by gentle calcination, solution, and crystallisation. It has a styptic and alkaline flavour, and is soluble in about 20 parts of water at 60°. When heated, it loses water of crystallisation, and swells up into a light porous mass (*calcined borax*), which at a higher temperature fuses into a transparent glass, which soon finds its way through earthen crucibles.

The composition of borax is by no means accurately determined, though Bergman's analysis is generally quoted, which represents it as containing, in its crystallised state, 34 boracic acid, 17 soda, 49 water. It has lately been manufactured in England, by the addition of soda to *native boracic acid*, imported from Italy, and coming originally from the Lipari Islands.

Borax is considered a good detergent application in the



thrush of children, and it certainly is effectual in cleansing aphthous excoriations. The *mel boracis* of the Pharmacopœia may be conveniently used in these cases, but it generally requires dilution with an equal portion of clarified honey; about an eighth part of tincture of myrrh is a good addition.

The following gargle and mouth-wash is a pleasant application to the throat and gums when under the influence of mercury :—

R Boracis Pulver. ʒij.  
 Aquæ Rosæ f ʒvij.  
 Mellis Despumat.  
 Tincturæ Myrrhæ, āā f ʒss. M.

Officinal Preparation. *Mel Boracis*.

**SODÆ SULPHAS**—*Sulphate of Soda*.—This is a well-known saline aperient, the virtues of which were first set forth in glowing terms by its celebrated discoverer Glauber, under the name of *sal mirabile*. It has a saline, cooling, and bitter taste, and requires about three parts of cold and one of boiling water for its solution when in crystals; these are composed of—

|    |                                      |           |       |       |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| 1  | proportional of sulphuric acid ..... | = 40      | ....  | 24.70 |
| 1  | ————— soda.....                      | = 32      | ....  | 19.75 |
| 10 | ————— water .....                    | 9×10 = 90 | ....  | 55.55 |
|    |                                      |           | <hr/> |       |
|    |                                      |           | 162   | 100   |

Crystallised sulphate of soda therefore contains more than half of its weight of water, part of which it loses by exposure to air, efflorescing into a white powder. When heated it fuses, and at a dull red heat loses water to the amount above stated. It sometimes liquefies in very warm climates, and therefore should be previously dried if intended for equatorial consumption, it being only necessary to recollect that half an ounce of the *dried* sulphate is equivalent to about an ounce of that in *crystals*.

Sulphate of soda has gone much out of fashion as a saline aperient, being quite as disagreeable, less active, and more apt to excite thirst than sulphate of magnesia. About an ounce of the crystallised salt, with any of the usual concomitants, is a dose.

The Pharmacopœia has given a formula for the preparation of this salt; but the market is exclusively supplied by the wholesale manufacturers, it being abundantly produced in a variety of chemical processes conducted upon a large scale.

**SODA IMPURA**—*Impure Soda*.—Many varieties of impure carbonate of soda occur in the markets, such as *barilla*, *kelp*, *native natron* of India and Africa, and a manufactured

article, prepared chiefly in France, under the name of *soude factice*.

Barilla is the residue of the combustion of the *salsola soda*, which is abundantly cultivated upon the Mediterranean coasts of Spain; kelp is the similar residue, obtained by the combustion of several varieties of sea-weed, especially the *fucus serratus*, and *fucus vesiculosus*. Upon the western coast of Scotland and in the Hebrides, kelp is largely prepared. The native carbonate of soda is abundant in Africa, in the vicinity of Fezzan; it has been also imported from India and from South America. The *soude factice* is chiefly prepared by calcining sulphate of soda with chalk and charcoal; the residue of this operation is lixiviated, and the substance thus obtained subjected to calcination<sup>1</sup>.

Carbonate of soda is separated in a pure form from these sources by lixiviation and crystallisation; its primary form is, according to Romé de Lisle, an octoedron with a rhombic base, which is variously modified. It dissolves in twice its weight of water at 60°, and in less than its weight of boiling water. The crystals, which are efflorescent, fuse at a temperature of about 150°, and, losing water of crystallisation, dry into a white friable mass. They consist of—

|    |                           |        |      |
|----|---------------------------|--------|------|
| 1  | proportional of soda..... | =      | 32   |
| 1  | ———— carbonic acid .....  | =      | 22   |
| 10 | ———— water .....          | 9 × 10 | = 90 |
|    |                           |        | 144  |

460 grains of dilute sulphuric acid, of the specific gravity 1.141, neutralise 100 grains of *dry* carbonate of soda; a datum from which the value of any sample of the impure alkali may be deduced. (See *Potassa Impura*.) The medical uses of the purified carbonate of soda will be found under the head of *Sodæ Subcarbonas*, among the “*Præparata et Composita*.”

**SPARTII CACUMINA**—*The Tops of the Spartium scoparium*<sup>2</sup>, or common *Broom*.—This indigenous shrub grows in dry soils, and flowers in May and June; it is 5 or 6 feet high, and sends off many straight, smooth, angled, and leafy branches; the leaves are ternate, smooth, and small; the flowers are papilionaceous, yellow, axillary, solitary, and peduncled; the calyx is bell-shaped and purple, with a 5-toothed lip; the stamens are united into a tube at the base, bearing oblong

<sup>1</sup> Aikin's Dictionary, Art. *Muriate of Soda*.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 17. Ord. 4. Diadelphia Decandria. Nat. Ord. Papilionaceæ.



orange-coloured anthers; the germen is villous, and the style curved; the legume is compressed, and contains several flat, shining seeds.

Decoction of broom tops is diuretic and aperient, and has been used in dropsy; so have the powdered seeds, but neither one nor the other are entitled to confidence.

**SPIGELIÆ RADIX**—*The Root of the Spigelia Marilandica*<sup>1</sup>, or *Perennial Worm Grass*.—This is a perennial plant which flowers in July and August, and is a native of the warmer parts of North America; the root is fibrous, and grows in a horizontal direction; the stalk is simple, erect, smooth, and about a foot high; the leaves are ovate, sessile, entire, deep-green, and in pairs; the flowers are large and funnel-shaped, and terminate the stem in a spike; the calyx is divided into 5 long segments; the corolla is monopetalous, long, and tubular, swelling towards the middle, bright-red, and dividing at the mouth into 5 pointed segments, yellow on the inside; the filaments are about the length of the tube, and crowned with pointed anthers; the germen is above the insertion of the corolla, small, ovate, and supports a roundish style, longer than the corolla, jointed near its base, and bearded towards the extremity; the stigma is obtuse; the capsule is 2-celled, and contains many small angular seeds.

In doses of from 20 to 60 grains, the powder of the root of this plant has been administered as an anthelmintic; it operates briskly upon the bowels, and any active purge will occasionally expel lumbrici and ascarides.

**SPIRITUS RECTIFICATUS**—*Rectified Spirit*.—(Its specific gravity is to that of distilled water as 835 to 1000.)

**SPIRITUS TENUIOR**—*Proof Spirit*.—(Its specific gravity is to that of distilled water as 930 to 1000.)

By reference to Mr. Gilpin's tables<sup>2</sup>, it appears that spirit of the specific gravity of 835 (*spiritus rectificatus*), at the temperature of 60°, contains 96·50 parts per cent., *by measure*, of alcohol, of specific gravity 825, which is as low as it can be obtained by ordinary distillation; and spirit of specific gravity 930 (*spiritus tenuior*) contains, according to the same authority, 56·36 per cent. of the same standard alcohol, also *by measure*; or *equal weights* of alcohol and water.

Rectified spirit is an important pharmaceutical agent for the formation of tinctures and various other solutions, and in a diluted state forms a powerful and generally-acting stimulant.

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Stellatæ, Linn. Gentianæ, Juss.

<sup>2</sup> Philosophical Transactions, 1794.

As such, we employ it in a variety of tinctures; in brandy, rum, and other cordials; and in the different wines; the latter contain acid, and, generally, colouring matter, and derive various flavours and qualities from the mode of fermenting, the nature of the grape, of the soil, and of the climate.

The effect of diluted alcohol, in any of these forms, is to excite every part of the system, to render the pulse full and quick, to exhilarate the mind, and augment the tone of the muscles; hence their use, under due limitations, in all cases of debility, selection being made of such particular liquor as is best suited to the individual case.

The relative strengths of the different wines, &c. in common use, may be judged of from the following table; but it must always be remembered that what is commonly called the *strength* of wine, which is a direct product of *fermentation*, depends upon alcohol in chemical combination with its other ingredients; and that the effects of wine upon the constitution are very different from those of diluted spirits, such as brandy, rum, gin, and other similar products of *distillation*.

|                             | Proportion of<br>Spirit per cent.<br>by measure. |                           | Proportion of<br>Spirit per cent.<br>by measure. |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Lissa .....              | 26,47  | 12. Constantia, red ..... | 18,92  |
| Ditto .....                 | 24,35  | 13. Lisbon .....          | 18,94  |
| Average .....               | 25,41  | 14. Malaga (1666) .....   | 18,94  |
| 2. Raisin wine .....        | 26,40  | 15. Bucellas .....        | 18,49  |
| Ditto .....                 | 25,77  | 16. Red Madeira .....     | 22,30  |
| Ditto .....                 | 23,20  | Ditto .....               | 18,40  |
| Average .....               | 25,12  | Average .....             | 20,35  |
| 3. Marsala .....            | 26,03  | 17. Cape Muschat .....    | 18,25  |
| Ditto .....                 | 25,05  | 18. Cape Madeira .....    | 22,94  |
| Average .....               | 25,09  | Ditto .....               | 20,50  |
| 4. Port .....               | 25,83  | Ditto .....               | 18,11  |
| Ditto .....                 | 24,29  | Average .....             | 20,51  |
| Ditto .....                 | 23,71  | 19. Grape wine .....      | 18,11  |
| Ditto .....                 | 23,39  | 20. Calcavella .....      | 19,20  |
| Ditto .....                 | 22,30  | Ditto .....               | 18,10  |
| Ditto .....                 | 21,40  | Average .....             | 18,65  |
| Ditto .....                 | 19,00  | 21. Vidonia .....         | 19,25  |
| Average .....               | 22,96  | 22. Alba Flora .....      | 17,26  |
| 5. Madeira .....            | 24,42  | 23. Malaga .....          | 17,26  |
| Ditto .....                 | 23,93  | 24. White Hermitage ..... | 17,43  |
| Ditto (Sercial) .....       | 21,40  | 25. Rousillon .....       | 19,00  |
| Ditto .....                 | 19,24  | Ditto .....               | 17,26  |
| Average .....               | 22,27  | Average .....             | 18,13  |
| 6. Currant wine .....       | 20,55  | 26. Claret .....          | 17,11  |
| 7. Sherry .....             | 19,81  | Ditto .....               | 16,32  |
| Ditto .....                 | 19,83  | Ditto .....               | 14,08  |
| Ditto .....                 | 18,79  | Ditto .....               | 12,91  |
| Ditto .....                 | 18,25  | Average .....             | 15,10  |
| Average .....               | 19,17  | 27. Malmsey Madeira ..... | 16,40  |
| 8. Teneriffe .....          | 19,79  | 28. Lunel .....           | 15,52  |
| 9. Colares .....            | 19,75  | 29. Sheraz .....          | 15,52  |
| 10. Lachryma Christi .....  | 19,70  | 30. Syracuse .....        | 15,28  |
| 11. Constantia, white ..... | 19,75  | 31. Sauterne .....        | 14,22  |



|                             | Proportion of<br>Spirit per cent.<br>by measure |   | Proportion of<br>Spirit per cent.<br>by measure. |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| 32. Burgundy .....          | 16,60   | 42. Gooseberry wine .....   | 11,84  |
| Ditto .....                 | 15,22   | 43. Orange wine,—average of<br>six samples made by a<br>London mauufacturer.... | 11,26  |
| Ditto .....                 | 14,53   | 44. Tokay .....   | 9,88   |
| Ditto .....                 | 11,95   | 45. Elder wine .....  | 8,79   |
| Average .....               | 14,57   | 46. Cider, highest average ....   | 9,87   |
| 33. Hock .....              | 14,37   | Ditto, lowest ditto .....   | 5,21   |
| Ditto .....                 | 13,00   | 47. Perry, average of four<br>samples .....                                     | 7,26   |
| Ditto (old in cask) .....   | 8,88  | 48. Mead .....  | 7,32   |
| Average .....               | 12,08   | 49. Ale (Burton) .....  | 8,88   |
| 34. Nice .....              | 14,63   | Ditto (Edinburgh) .....   | 6,20   |
| 35. Barsac .....            | 13,86   | Ditto (Dorchester) .....  | 5,56   |
| 36. Tent .....              | 13,30   | Average .....   | 6,87   |
| 37. Champagne (still) ..... | 13,80   | 50. Brown stout .....   | 6,80   |
| Ditto (sparkling) .....     | 12,80   | 51. London porter (average) ..  | 4,20   |
| Ditto (red) .....           | 12,56   | 52. Ditto small beer (ditto) ...  | 1,28   |
| Ditto (ditto) .....         | 11,30   | 53. Brandy .....  | 53,39  |
| Average .....               | 12,61   | 54. Rum .....   | 53,68  |
| 38. Red Hermitage .....     | 12,32   | 55. Gin .....   | 51,60  |
| 39. Vin de Grave .....      | 13,94   | 56. Scotch Whisky .....   | 54,32  |
| Ditto .....                 | 12,80   | 57. Irish ditto .....   | 53,90  |
| Average .....               | 13,37   |   |  |
| 40. Frontignac .....        | 12,79   |   |  |
| 41. Côte Rôtie .....        | 12,32   |   |  |

Of the wines in the above list, the strongest, such as Port, Madeira, and Sherry, are those in most common use in this country.

*Port*, in its new and unadulterated state, is a rough, strong, and slightly sweet wine; but when duly kept in bottle, it deposits a considerable portion of its astringent and extractive matter, loses the greater part of its sweetness, acquires an improved flavour, and retains its strength. Various proportions of brandy are almost always added to port wine before it comes to this country, to which much of its heat upon the palate, and powerfully stimulating effect upon the constitution, must be ascribed, when taken in its new state. If too long kept in bottle, nearly the whole of its colouring and astringent matters are deposited; it loses flavour; and becomes much less agreeable, both to the palate and stomach.

Good port wine, duly kept, is, when taken in moderation, one of the most wholesome of vinous liquors; it strengthens the muscular system, assists the digestive powers, accelerates the circulation, exhilarates the spirits, and sharpens the mental energies. Indulged in excess, it is perhaps the most mischievous of the wines, and most likely to produce those permanent derangements of the digestive organs, that obtuse state of the faculties of the mind, and those obstinate organic affections, which follow the habitual use of distilled spirituous liquors.

*Madeira*, as a stimulant, equals port. It agrees well with

the stomach, and, when in fine condition, may truly be called a generous wine, particularly well adapted for the resuscitation of debilitated constitutions, and for exciting the nervous system in typhoid weakness. But, unfortunately, good Madeira wine is rarely to be procured; it is no longer made of the same excellence as formerly, and the trade overflows with a variety of inferior and mixed wines, of all prices and denominations, to which the name of Madeira is most undeservingly applied. In its purest form, Madeira generally is more acid than either port or sherry, and is consequently not so well adapted to stomachs inclined to dyspeptic acidity, where it is usually complained of as peculiarly heating and irritating.

*Sherry*, of a due age and good condition, is an extremely fine and wholesome wine, free from any excess of acid matter, and possessing a dry aromatic flavour and fragrantcy, which renders it a fit stimulant for delicate stomachs; as such, it is among the most valuable articles of the *Materia Medica*. But, as procured in the ordinary market, it is of most fluctuating quality, and very often destitute of all aroma, tasting of little else than alcohol and water.

Of these wines, the quantity which may be taken with impunity, and the proportion requisite to fulfil certain indications in disease, is entirely dependent upon their quality; and they accordingly either produce the genial effects of genuine fermented liquors, or the more boisterous excitement of the products of the still, even when taken with due moderation. Thus it is, that a single glass of tavern wine often heats and creates headach, and disturbs digestion in persons who are not habitually accustomed to the compounds which, at such places, are distributed under the name of wine. Such effects are sometimes so marked as to be referred to pernicious adulterations of the liquor; but, in the numerous samples of wine, of suspected purity, which I have examined, I never found any poisonous ingredient; and though lead, in minute quantities, may often be detected in wines, especially in Madeira, it invariably is derived from shot in the bottle, or some analogous source, and is most evident in that wine, in consequence of its superior acidity, and consequent tendency to oxidize and dissolve the lead. In one instance I detected arsenic in a bottle of sherry, but it was confined to the single bottle, and traced to a cattle-lotion which it had previously contained. Upon the whole, the prevalent custom of putting wine into washed bottles which have not previously contained it, cannot be too strongly or justly reprobated.

Among the French wines, which in delicacy of flavour and



care in manufacture exceed all others, *Burgundy*, and the various branches of that family, are peculiarly heating and soporific ; and, when new, two or three glasses frequently excite a singular degree of temporary fever, attended by a full and hard pulse, flushed face, and headach ; but the symptoms soon subside, and are followed by no inconvenience. These wines, however, should be cautiously indulged in by all persons in whom suddenly increased vascular action is liable to produce any thing more than temporary effect. *Burgundy* is a wine not less celebrated for the exquisite delicacy of its flavour and odour, than for the uncertainty with which it retains them.—Sometimes it preserves its excellence unimpaired for many years ; at others it becomes insipid, vapid, discoloured and decomposed, in as many months. Any sudden change of temperature is particularly inimical to this wine, which should always be preserved in a *cool* but not a *cold* cellar ; and, for the same reason, it should be transported from one country to the other in very temperate weather, the thermometer ranging between 50° and 60°.

The *wines of Bourdeaux* are distinguished by a delicacy of flavour, and by a more perceptible combination of the acid with the vinous flavour (though quite independent of acescency), than is perceived in most other genuine vinous liquors : they are less heating and more aperient than other wines, and agree well with the stomach when taken in moderation ; if in excess, they excite acidity and indigestion often rather from the quantity than quality. But the *clarets* of our wine-merchants are often very substantial wines, being compounded in various ways for the English market ; they are thus often mixed with *Hermitage*, and with raspberry brandy : and if procured through doubtful channels, as we find them at taverns, they are too frequently acescent, and apparently composed of some claret mixed with faded port, or other spoiled wines. The clarets, however, derived from respectable sources, are agreeable and comparatively innoxious wines ; they are moderately exhilarant, and have a tendency to relax the bowels and increase the flow of urine : they are the wines fitted for those persons who are easily excited, and in whom the stronger wines readily produce febrile action ; and in that state of the system which is connected with a tendency in the urine to deposit white sand, a state which some physicians have denominated the *phosphatic diathesis*, claret may be regarded as an effective remedy.

*Hermitage*, especially the red, *Côte-rôtie*, *Rousillon*, and a few other wines of rare occurrence, occupy a place intermediate between port and claret, considered as to strength,

and often also in regard to flavour. These wines require age, and Rousillon, if originally of fine quality, is not in perfection unless it has been ten or twelve years in bottle.

*Champagne wines* admit of division into two classes, the sweet and sparkling, and the dry and still. These differences arise partly from the mode of managing the fermentation and bottling of the wine, and partly from the circumstances of growth and situation of the vines, the sunny side of a hill yielding fruit fit for the production of the sweet wine, and the opposite aspect affording grapes calculated for the manufacture of a strong but dry wine. The effervescent varieties of champagne, if not taken in excess, are the most speedily exhilarating of all wines; they soon produce an approach to intoxication, which is very transient and generally harmless; but indulged in to any excess, their effects are more than ordinarily pernicious, and they then stand unrivalled in the headach, nausea, sickness, and universal derangement of the system, which they create. In habits tending to the formation of uric acid, and in constitutions subject to *red* deposits in the urine, or to affections of a gouty character, champagne, even in moderation, is certainly more apt than other wines to create painful sensations in the region of the kidneys, and in the small joints of the hands and feet. It is well known to have brought on fits of gravel and of gout; yet are there some gouty persons who indulge in champagne with at least temporary impunity, though in all such cases prudence forbids its use. So many persons complain of violent headach, even after a single glass of good champagne, that it should be interdicted wherever there is a tendency to such affections, from whatever cause they may arise.

Still champagne is often a strong and very heating wine, very deceitful in these respects to the palate. When of superior quality, it has the singular aromatic flavour of champagne in an eminent degree, a flavour which also exists, but is covered by carbonic acid, in the sparkling wine. The latter should, therefore, not be drank till the active effervescence has subsided, by those who would relish this characteristic quality. The prevalent notion that a glass of champagne cannot be too quickly swallowed, is very erroneous, and shews great want of taste in respect to the peculiar excellence of this wine; to such persons a glass of perry or of gooseberry wine is as acceptable as one of champagne; further, it is no bad test of the goodness of sparkling champagne to leave it exposed for some hours in a wine-glass, when, if originally of the higher order, it will be found to have lost its carbonic acid, but entirely to retain its body and flavour. The coloured champagnes are



usually tinted with cochineal, and there are several other varieties of this wine which require no particular notice : many of them, though genuine, are of a very inferior description, and quite deficient in *bouquet* and flavour.

The class of *sweet wines*, or *vins de liqueur*, as the French term them, require little notice in this place, being rarely taken in doses exceeding one, or at the utmost two small glasses. Many of them are potent, aromatic, and cordial ; and they are generally more agreeable to the palate than the stomach, with which they eminently disagree, if indulged in beyond the usually prescribed quantity.

A great variety of wines are made in Italy, and in the more southern parts of Europe, which, however, are of rare occurrence, and chiefly found at the tables of the curious. Of these some few are of excellent quality, but in general they are carelessly made, and, from inattention to cleanliness and to the state of the fruit, they are of inferior or even disagreeable flavour. With the exception of *Constantia*, the wines imported from the Cape of Good Hope are also defective in the most essential qualities of good wine.

Among the home-made wines, a few are drinkable, and many might be considerably improved, but the necessity of selecting perfect and healthy fruit, and the extreme care and cleanliness requisite in all steps of the manufacture, are here so little attended to, as, with very few exceptions, to render all these products quite unworthy of comparison with those previously described. They commonly contain a large quantity of unfermented sugar, or they have become *pricked* in consequence of the production of a little vinegar, and hence are extremely apt to disorder the stomach.

It may not be out of place here to remark, that the acidity of stomach and other symptoms of indigestion which follow occasional indulgence in wine, may, to a great extent, be prevented by a dose of magnesia at bedtime, which saturates the acid in the stomach, allays the febrile action, and passes off the next day by the bowels. Other absorbents, in conjunction with mild bitters, may be resorted to ; and by such a plan the disturbance of the urinary secretion, and the continued dyspepsia, which often lasts for some days, may be checked at its commencement.

In regard to *porter*, *ale*, and other varieties of *beer*, considering them as occasional remedies in the cure of disease, it may be remarked that they rarely agree with the stomach, except among the lower orders, who are in the habit of copious indulgence in those coarser products of fermentation. Hence it is that, under such circumstances, beer may be administered

to convalescents with more advantage than wine; it is a less stimulating, but more nutritive and soporific beverage; it induces more fulness of the system; and habitual indulgence in it generally fattens, creates a plethoric state of habit, and induces apoplexy, or some of the minor symptoms of vascular turgidity.

**SPONGIA**—*Sponge*.—The residue of the combustion of this substance has long been used in medicine, under the name of *burnt sponge*, as a remedy in certain glandular affections, especially in bronchocele; and its efficacy has been ascribed sometimes to its saline contents, at others to the carbonaceous matter in which it abounds. The discovery of *iodine* has thrown new light upon this subject, and certain *iodic salts* have been detected in the coal of sponge, to which its medicinal activity has, with much plausibility, been referred, and which have therefore been admitted into some Pharmacopœiæ.

*Iodine* has been administered in bronchocele, and other glandular tumours, and as a powerful alterative in cachectic affections; it is given in various forms and combinations; though very sparingly soluble in water, it readily dissolves in alcohol, and this furnishes a good means of dividing it into convenient doses. Of a solution of 36 grains of iodine in an ounce of alcohol, 10 drops have been given three times a day, in any viscid liquid; this dose has been gradually increased to 20 drops, which has generally proved effectual. Alcoholic solution of iodine suffers a change when long kept, in consequence of the decomposition of a portion of the alcohol, but the medical virtues of the solution are probably not impaired.

*Hydriodate of potassa*, as it is usually called, is another form of iodine, which is also used in similar cases. It may be prepared by evaporating to dryness a saturated solution of iodine in liquid potassa, fusing the residue, out of the contact of air, in a platinum crucible or a Florence flask, by which iodide of potassium is obtained, and which, when dissolved in water, in the proportion of 48 grains to an ounce, affords a solution which may be given in doses of from 10 to 30 drops.

A third form in which iodine has been exhibited is that of *ioduretted hydriodate of potassa*, prepared by dissolving 36 grains of hydriodate of potassa, and 10 grains of iodine, in an ounce of distilled water. Six to 10 drops are given three or four times a day in syrup and water, or other convenient vehicle.

*Ointments of iodine* have also been employed in cases where it disagrees with the stomach, and as auxiliaries to the other forms. Of an ointment composed of an ounce and a half of hog's lard and half a drachm of hydriodate of potassa, a piece.



of the size of a hazel-nut may be rubbed in upon the enlarged gland night and morning.

In any of these forms, iodine appears to act as a powerful stimulant upon the absorbent and lymphatic system, and has been tried in various forms of scrofula, and several cases of indolent glandular tumours, with no inconsiderable success; it is, however, in decided *goître* that its effects are least equivocal. These tumours it softens, and gradually excites their absorption, especially where there is no local inflammatory action (which ought to be subdued in the first instance by proper treatment), and where the patient is not of a nervous or very feeble habit. If any febrile symptoms intervene, it should be discontinued; also where it accelerates the pulse to any great extent, or where it occasions cough, nervous restlessness, obstinate diarrhœa, and emaciation, which is sometimes the case to a very alarming extent. In the hospitals of Paris it is said that iodine is used as a palliative in cancer<sup>1</sup>.

STANNUM—*Tin*.—*Tin filings and powder of tin* were once employed as anthelmintics; but they are a dangerous remedy, the use of which is now very properly superseded by that of more effectual and safe medicines. They should not have been retained in the Pharmacopœia.

STAPHISAGRIÆ SEMINA—*The Seed of the Delphinium Staphisagria*<sup>2</sup>, *Stavesacre*, or *Palmated Larkspur*.—This plant is a native of the southern parts of Europe; it has an erect, simple, smooth, downy stem, of a purple tint, and from 12 to 20 inches high; the leaves are palmated, and divide into 5 or 7 lobes, which are ovate, downy, veined, and pale-green; the leaf-stalks are strong and downy, arising alternately from the stem, and gradually shortening towards the top of the plant: the flowers are large, blue, and stand upon long foot-stalks, terminating the stalk in open spikes; there is no calyx; the corolla consists of 5 oval petals, of which the uppermost extends backwards, so as to form a hollow spur; the nectary is commonly divided into 4 leaves, which are smaller than those of the corolla; the two superior are narrow, small, erect, and at the base drawn out into spurs like that of the petal, in which they are inclosed; the other two are roundish; the filaments are about 20, short, tapering, and crowned with large, yellow anthers; the germen is 3, tapering, downy, and supplied with short, filiform styles, terminated by simple stigmata;

<sup>1</sup> See Coindet's Papers and the abstracts of them, in vols. x. xi. xii. and xiv. of the Quarterly Journal:—also Dr. Gairdner's Essay.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 13. Ord. 3. Polyandria Trigynia. Nat. Ord. Multisiliquæ, Linn. Ranunculaceæ, Juss.

the 3 capsules are straight, oblong, tapering, and contain many rough, brown, angular seeds.

These seeds are violently cathartic and emetic. Their use is confined to external application, especially mixed with hair-powder, for the destruction of lice. They might, however, well be omitted in our present *Materia Medica*. They contain a peculiar salifiable base, called *delphinia*, which may be procured by boiling magnesia in the decoction of the seed, filtering, and treating the residue upon the filter with alcohol; upon evaporating the latter, *delphinia* remains in the form of very minute crystals, eminently poisonous<sup>1</sup>.

According to Brandes, the seeds contain—

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Fixed oil .....                             | 19·10 |
| Waxy matter.....                            | 1·40  |
| Delphinia .....                             | 8·10  |
| Gum .....                                   | 3·15  |
| Starch .....                                | 2·40  |
| Albumen.....                                | 3·70  |
| Phytocolla .....                            | 30·67 |
| Sulphate of lime, potassa, and magnesia.... | 2·15  |
| Phosphate of lime and magnesia.....         | 3·62  |
| Woody fibre.....                            | 17·20 |
| Water and loss.....                         | 8·51  |

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100

**STRAMONII SEMINA ET FOLIA**—*The Seeds and Leaves of the Datura Stramonium*<sup>2</sup>, or *Thornapple*.—This is an indigenous plant, flowering in July and August, and common upon the road-sides near London; it has a round, branching stem, about two feet high, spreading and leafy; the leaves are large, and spring from the forks of the stem on long round petioles; they are irregularly ovate-triangular, sinuated, and unequal at the base; the flowers are large, axillary, solitary, on short peduncles; the calyx is about 2 inches in length, tubular, pentangular, and 5-toothed; the corolla longer, white, funnel-shaped, and plaited; the filaments adhere to the tube, and support oblong, flat anthers; the style is filiform, and terminated with a club-shaped stigma; the fruit is a large, fleshy, ovate, 4-cornered capsule, beset with spines, and containing many compressed seeds.

The whole of this herb is stimulating and narcotic, but less certain in its action as a sedative than numerous other articles of the *Materia Medica*, which are very properly substituted for it. It contains, according to Brandes, a salifiable base, to

<sup>1</sup> Lassaigne and Feneulle, *Annales de Chimie et Physique*, tom. xii. p. 358.

<sup>2</sup> *Cl.* 5. *Ord.* 1. *Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Solanææ.*



which its active powers are referrible, which may be called *daturia*<sup>1</sup>. When the dried plant is smoked, in the manner of tobacco, it is said to be highly effectual in the relief of spasmodic asthma; but the exorbitant praises originally bestowed upon its virtues have been by no means sanctioned by experience<sup>2</sup>. In over-doses it produces the usual alarming symptoms of this class of poisons.

According to Dr. Marcet, the extract of the seeds is more active than that prepared from the whole plant, but in other respects the virtues of the two are analogous; he recommends it in cases of chronic disease attended with acute pain, in doses of from one-eighth of a grain to one grain: it appears to have been eminently successful in sciatica<sup>3</sup>.

According to Promnitz, 100 parts of the fresh herb contain—

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Extractive (with daturia).....           | 0·60  |
| Gummy extractive.....                    | 0·58  |
| Resin .....                              | 0·12  |
| Green fecula .....                       | 0·64  |
| Albumen.....                             | 0·15  |
| Phosphoric acid and vegetable salts..... | 0·23  |
| Fibre .....                              | 5·15  |
| Water and loss .....                     | 93·53 |
|  | <hr/> |
|  | 100   |

The seeds contain, according to Brandes—

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Malate of daturia.....                          | 1·80  |
| Fixed oil .....                                 | 16·05 |
| Wax.....  | 1·40  |
| Resin .....                                     | 9·90  |
| Red extractive.....                             | 0·60  |
| Gummy extractive .....                          | 6·00  |
| Bassorin and gum .....                          | 11·30 |
| Phytocolla.....                                 | 4·55  |
| Albumen and gluten .....                        | 7·40  |
| Acetate and malate of potassa and salts of lime | 0·60  |
| Lignin.....                                     | 23·35 |
| Water .....                                     | 15·10 |
|   | <hr/> |
|   | 98·05 |
| Loss .....                                      | 1·95  |
|   | <hr/> |
|   | 100   |

Official Preparation. *Extract. Stramon.*

<sup>1</sup> Journal de Physique, tom. xci. p. 144.

<sup>2</sup> “The indiscriminate use of the smoke of stramonium has occasioned dangerous or hurtful effects in frequent instances. In some cases of aged or apoplectic subjects, death has been the consequence. No considerate physician can countenance the latitude of its application, or advise its use without well knowing the nature of the case of asthma on which he is consulted.”—Dr. Bree on Disordered Respiration, 5th edit. p. 367.

<sup>3</sup> Med. Chir. Trans. vol. vii. p. 551. See also vol. viii. p. 594, in reference to the preparation and properties of the extract.

**STYRACIS BALSAMUM** — *The Balsam of the Styrax officinale*<sup>1</sup>.—This tree is a native of the south of Europe and the Levant; it rises to the height of 15 or 20 feet, and has a rough, grey bark; the leaves are about two inches long, and an inch and a half broad, bright-green on the upper surface, hoary beneath, petiolate, alternate, elliptical, pointed, and entire; the flowers are in terminal clusters; the corolla is monopetalous, funnel-shaped, large, and white; the filaments are placed in a circle, and support erect, oblong anthers; the germen is oval, with a slender style, and simple stigma; the fruit is an ovate, globular drupe, containing one or two angular nuts.

Storax is among the stimulating expectorants of the older writers. When pure it is in drops, of a pale and dark-brown colour, or in mottled masses composed of their mixture, extremely fragrant, and consisting of resin, volatile oil, and benzoic acid. The substance that occurs in commerce, under the name of *Styrax Calamita*, originally consisted of sawdust, mixed with a strong spirituous solution of genuine storax, and pressed into lumps; but this is now not to be met with, and what is usually sold under the above name, is dirty sawdust, mixed with balsam of Peru, and sometimes smelling of naphthalin, or other products of coal-tar. It is useless, and should not be retained.

Official Preparation. *Tinct. Benzoin. compos.*

**SUCCINUM**—*Amber*.—This is probably a resin of antediluvian origin. It occurs associated with coal and bituminous wood, and also in a conglomerate upon the sea shore, from which it is washed out by the waves. It has been obtained most abundantly in Prussia, and upon the shores of the Baltic. In Poland it has been met with in an inland sandy soil, mixed with pine cones. It has also occurred imbedded in limestone and gypsum.

Amber is not used in medicine; but when subjected to destructive distillation, it affords an acid and oil, both of which have a place in some Pharmacopœiæ, though the latter is now only retained by the London College. Their preparation and properties will be found under the head of *Oleum Succini*, among the “*Præparata et Composita*.”

Amber is sometimes mixed with various resins, and especially with fragments of copal, which are detected by their difference of fracture and colour, and by not exhaling the peculiar odour which amber does when put upon a hot iron.

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 10. Ord. 1. Decandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Bicornes, Linn. Gualacinæ, Juss.



**SULPHUR—SULPHUR SUBLIMATUM.**—Sulphur occurs *native*, associated with gypsum, limestone, and sulphate of strontia. It is also abundant among volcanic products, and in union with various metals forms some of the most abundant and important metallic ores; such are the sulphurets of copper, of lead, of mercury, &c.

*Native sulphur* is imported into England from Sicily and Naples, and largely consumed by the manufacturers of sulphuric acid and of gunpowder, and by the bleachers of cotton goods.

*Roll sulphur* is chiefly obtained by roasting sulphuret of copper; it is collected in a chamber of brick-work, through which the fumes of the heated ore are made to pass, and afterwards purified by fusion and cast into sticks.

*Sublimed sulphur* or *flowers of sulphur*, is obtained by heating sulphur up to  $500^{\circ}$  or  $600^{\circ}$ , when it rapidly rises in vapour, and is condensed in sufficiently capacious receptacles, in the form of a fine powder; the residue is called *sulphur vivum* in old Pharmacopœiæ.

Sublimed sulphur, or very finely powdered native sulphur, is medicinally used as a gentle laxative and diaphoretic. It is best administered in the form of electuary, and may be taken in the dose of a drachm or two twice or thrice a day, so as gently to act upon the bowels. In this way it relieves hæmorrhoidal affections of the rectum: it has also gained celebrity in the cure of chronic rheumatism. When its use is continued for some time its odour is often very manifest upon the skin, especially when aided in that direction by other diaphoretics, or when administered in warm weather.

In the itch, sulphur is a specific; and in some cutaneous eruptions it proves highly serviceable, both as an external application and an internal remedy. Its odour in the form of ointment is best covered by a little oil of bergamot or of lemon.

The celebrated remedy for chronic rheumatism called the *Chelsea Pensioner*, is an electuary composed of a drachm of guaiacum, two drachms of powdered rhubarb, an ounce of cream of tartar, two ounces of flowers of sulphur, one nutmeg in powder, and a sufficient proportion of clarified honey: two large tea-spoonsful to be taken night and morning.

Sulphur is subject to various contaminations, and roll sulphur especially is said to contain sulphuret of arsenic. Its purity may be determined by boiling 100 grains in four ounces of oil of turpentine: the solution is poured off while hot, and it deposits the sulphur it had dissolved, as it cools: the cold oil may then again be boiled on the residue, and

again cooled, and this operation repeated as long as it dissolves any thing: the weight of the insoluble residue indicates the amount of impurity.

Official Preparations. *Sulphur lotum. Sulphur precipitatum. Oleum Sulphuretum. Potassæ Sulphuretum. Unguentum Sulphuris. Unguentum Sulphuris Compos. Hydrargyri Sulphuretum nigrum. Hydr. Sulphuretum Rubrum.*

**TABACI FOLIA**—*Tobacco Leaves*—the dried Leaves of the *Nicotiana Tabacum*<sup>1</sup>.—This plant is a native of America, but is cultivated in many parts of Europe. The root is annual, long, and fibrous; the stalk is erect, strong, round, hairy, branched towards the top, and from 4 to 6 feet high; the leaves are numerous, large, oblong, pointed, entire, pale green, and without footstalks; the bractes are long, linear, and pointed; the flowers terminate the stem and branches in loose clusters; the corolla is monopetalous, funnel-shaped, with a long hairy tube which gradually swells towards the limb, and there divides into 5 acute folding segments, of a pink colour; the calyx is hairy, about half the length of the corolla, and cut into 5 narrow segments; the 5 filaments are bent inwards, tapering, and crowned with oblong anthers; the germ is oval and supports a long slender style, terminated by a round cleft stigma; the capsule is oval and divided into two cells, containing many small round seeds.

Tobacco is an eminently powerful sedative when administered internally in the form of infusion, but its use is limited in this respect to injection as an enema in cases of spasmodic constipation, of hernia, and of retention of urine<sup>2</sup>: its good effects, however, are unfortunately almost always very problematical, and the fainting fits which it occasionally induces are of a dangerous and alarming nature. On the whole it is very doubtful whether it should ever be prescribed, excepting in very urgent cases, and then with the utmost caution. Even the external use of tobacco washes, which are sometimes employed to cure the itch, is dangerous, and should be prohibited. The *infusum tabaci* of the Pharmacopœia is the usual form for glysters: sometimes an injection of the smoke of tobacco is used as a substitute for the infusion, being a more penetrating and equally powerfully sedative.

From Mr. Brodie's experiments, infusion of tobacco appears to occasion death by acting upon the heart, and producing fainting through the medium of the nervous system<sup>3</sup>. It appears, from some of his researches, that the action of the heart ceases even before that of the diaphragm.

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Luridæ, Linn. Solanææ, Juss.

<sup>2</sup> Earle, Med. Chir. Trans. vol. vi. p. 83.

<sup>3</sup> Phil. Trans. 1811, p. 186.



There appear to be two distinct poisonous principles in tobacco, a volatile oil, and a principle approaching volatile oil in its nature, which has been called *nicotin*.

In some forms of asthma, and other painful spasmodic diseases, smoking and chewing tobacco have been occasionally prescribed; it often relieves the violence of toothach, and excites a copious flow of saliva; but the uninitiated ought to be exceedingly circumspect in meddling with any form of tobacco.

*Snuff*, in its genuine form, is powdered tobacco leaf, to which, however, a variety of additions are generally made, such as perfumes and volatile oils, carbonate of ammonia, muriate of ammonia, common salt, powdered glass, urine, and other substances which are kept secret: some kinds of snuff are moistened with sugar-cane juice or molasses and water, and acquire a peculiar flavour from fermentation, such as the *Macabau* of Martinique.

Official Preparation. *Infusum Tabaci*.

**TAMARINDI PULPA**—*The Pulp of the Pod of the Tamarindus Indica*<sup>1</sup>.—The Tamarind tree is a native of the East and West Indies, America, Egypt, and Arabia. It is a tall branching tree with a thick erect trunk and rough grey bark. The leaves are pinnate, consisting of several pairs of small sessile leaflets, bright green, downy, entire, oblong, and obtuse, the flowers are in lateral clusters; the calyx is yellow and deciduous; the petals yellow, variegated with red veins; they are ovate, concave, acute, and indented; the filaments are purple with incumbent brown anthers; the germen oblong and compressed, and the style terminated by an obtuse stigma; the pod is roundish, compressed, 3 to 5 inches long, and contains several seeds, lodged in a pulpy matter.

The West Indian Tamarinds are generally preserved in casks of syrup; the East Indian are darker and dry, and generally without sugar; the former are an agreeable sweetmeat, and the latter chiefly used for culinary purposes.

According to Vauquelin, 100 parts of the pulp of Tamarinds contain—

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Tartaric acid .....        | 1·5  |
| Bitartrate of potassa..... | 3·2  |
| Citric acid .....          | 9·4  |
| Malic acid.....            | 0·4  |
| Vegetable jelly .....      | 6·2  |
| Sugar.....                 | 12·5 |
| Gum .....                  | 4·7  |
| Fibre, and lignin .....    | 30·5 |
| Water .....                | 31·6 |

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100

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 16. Ord. 1. Monadelphia Triandria. Nat. Ord. Leguminosæ.

The Tamarind is a grateful acid to allay thirst in febrile affections, and if largely eaten operates upon the bowels. In preparing *pulp of tamarinds*, or in preserving them with sugar, copper vessels should be avoided, as they are apt to become contaminated with that pernicious metal.

Officinal Preparation. *Confectio Sennæ*.

**TARAXACI RADIX**—*The Root of the Leontodon Taraxacum*<sup>1</sup>—*Dandelion*.—This common indigenous plant has a fusiform root, pale brown externally, and white within; the leaves are radical, nearly entire, dentated, smooth, and bright green; the stem is erect, smooth, tubular, and one-flowered. The flower is terminal, large, and yellow; the calyx is smooth with the exterior scales turned down; the florets are very numerous, ligulate, and serrated at the extremities. The receptacle is spheroidal and punctured. The seeds are obovate, furrowed, and furnished with a radiated pappus on a large stipe.

A decoction of dandelion has long been celebrated on the Continent as a diet-drink in liver complaints and other chronic visceral affections; it operates as a diuretic and diaphoretic, and is slightly aperient. In certain cases of dyspepsia, much benefit is said to result from the use of this medicine in large doses. Dr. W. Philip says, "it is best adapted to those cases in which the bile is deficient or much disordered, while the power of the stomach is still considerable<sup>2</sup>."

In the treatment of chronic inflammation of the liver, Dr. Pemberton speaks highly of the effects of taraxacum, and recommends its trial in incipient scirrhus of that viscus, and in several chronic derangements of the stomach<sup>3</sup>.—(See *Extractum Taraxaci*, in the second part of this work.)

Sometimes it is employed as an alterative in obstinate cutaneous eruptions; but in all such cases its medical efficacy is equivocal. It often happens, however, that during the use of diet-drinks, and analogous remedies, more strict attention is paid to the state of the stomach and bowels, and those kinds of food are abstained from which are rich and greasy, or which otherwise disagree with the stomach: this is done that the effects of the alterative plan may not be interfered with; and hence it is that, in many instances, the mere putting the patient upon a system which makes him more attentive to the state of the *primæ viæ* is useful in the removal of many com-

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 19. Ord. 1. Syngenesia Æqualis. Nat. Ord. Cichoraceæ.

<sup>2</sup> On Indigestion, 4th edit. p. 254.

<sup>3</sup> On Diseases of the Abdominal Viscera, p. 42.



plaints ; cuticular eruptions especially are often mere symptoms of a state of stomach and bowels which is removed by a strict attention to diet.

The component parts of dandelion have not been accurately ascertained ; according to John the milky juice contains bitter extractive, caoutchouc, traces of resin, sugar, gum, a free acid, sulphate, muriate, and phosphate of potassa and lime.

Official Preparation. *Extractum Taraxaci*.

**TARTARUM** — *Tartar* — *Impure Supertartrate of Potassa*.—This is the substance already spoken of under the head *Potassæ Supertartras*. It is useless as an article of the *Materia Medica*.

**TEREBINTHINA CANADENSIS**—*The liquid Resin of the Pinus balsamea*<sup>1</sup>—*Canadian Turpentine*.—This is a tall, elegant tree, native in North America ; the leaves are in double rows, short, linear, dark green on the upper surface, marked with whitish lines beneath, and odorous ; the cones stand erect on the branches, and are large, smooth, and dark purple.

Canada Balsam, like the other turpentine, is a compound of a volatile oil and resin. It is obtained by incision from the bark of the tree, and imported in casks, in the form of a very viscid liquid ; it has a fragrant odour, and a warm bitter taste ; it is diuretic, and generally stimulant, but scarcely ever used in medicine ; it is a valuable ingredient in transparent varnishes.

**TEREBINTHINA CHIA**—*Cyprus Turpentine*—is the produce of the *pistacia terebinthus*<sup>2</sup>, a native of the South of Europe and of Barbary, cultivated in the islands of Chios and Cyprus, and not unfrequent in our gardens. It has pinnate leaves, composed of 3 pair of lanceolate ovate pinnæ with a terminal one ; the male and female flowers are on different trees ; the male are in an amentum with the calyx divided into 5 small segments ; the filaments are 4 or 5 in number, very short, and supporting large quadrangular anthers ; the female flowers are placed on a common peduncle, in alternate order, consisting of a calyx of 3 small squamous segments, and an ovate germen, crowned with 2 or 3 styles, with reflected clubbed stigmas ; the fruit is subovate, reddish, and smooth.

This species of turpentine is fragrant and warm, but less acrid and bitter than the others, from which, however, it is not essentially different in medical virtues. It is said to be generally adulterated with common turpentine.

<sup>1</sup> *Cl.* 21. *Ord.* 8. Monœcia Monadelphia. *Nat. Ord.* Coniferæ.

<sup>2</sup> *Cl.* 22. *Ord.* 5. Diœcia Pentandria. *Nat. Ord.* Terebintaceæ.

**TEREBINTHINA VULGARIS** — *The liquid Resin of the Pinus sylvestris, or Scotch Fir — common Turpentine.*— When this substance is distilled, it affords a volatile oil, (*terebinthinæ oleum*,) and resin (see *Resina Flava*) remains behind.

Oil of turpentine is a stimulating diuretic in small doses, and as such is often prescribed in gleet and other similar cases in which copaiba is used; sometimes it is useful in urinary sand, but in general it irritates the kidneys and disorders the stomach, when exhibited in such cases. In chronic rheumatism it is occasionally an effective stimulant, and deserves trial in obstinate cases.

The best form of administering oil of turpentine is to triturate it with mucilage or honey, and thus diffuse it through some aromatic water.

R Olei Terebinthinæ ℥xv.

Mellis 3iss. tere simul et adde

Aquæ Cinnamomi f 3x.

M. fiat haustus ter die sumendus.

The dose, in many constitutions, may be increased to 30 or 40 drops.

Oil of turpentine is the most effective of the anthelmintics, and especially in the expulsion of tape-worm; in such cases it requires to be given in doses of from half an ounce to two ounces, repeated night and morning till the bowels are evacuated and the worm dislodged; and should the second dose not operate, some castor oil should be given to aid its purgative powers<sup>1</sup>. It is remarkable that, in these large doses, oil of turpentine rarely proves to any extent diuretic, though it communicates to the urine the violet odour peculiar to all the turpentines, when they pass off by the kidneys. In these doses, the oil is best given with a little aromatic water only, or it may be blended with honey or mucilage. It usually nauseates and excites eructations from the stomach; an effect to a great extent prevented by a little brandy. Dr. Paris advises large doses of oil of turpentine in certain cases of obstinate constipation, depending on affections of the brain<sup>2</sup>; and Dr. Latham has found it useful in epilepsy. In some cases of constipation it has been used as an enema, in the proportion of an ounce, rubbed with the yolks of two eggs, and diffused through a pint of thin starch<sup>3</sup>. As a stimulant, oil of turpen-

<sup>1</sup> Fenwick. Med. Chir. Trans. vol. ii. p. 24.

<sup>2</sup> Pharmacologia.

<sup>3</sup> A very singular case of locked jaw in an hysterical young woman, cured by a glyster of oil of turpentine, is related in the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, by Dr. E. Philips, vol. vi. p. 65.



tine is applied in liniments, blended with camphor, ammonia, and other rubefacients; and applied to bleeding vessels, it often operates as an effectual styptic. The stimulating application sold under the name of *Whitehead's Essence of Mustard*, is composed of camphor and oil of rosemary, dissolved in oil of turpentine, with a little flour of mustard added to it.

**TESTÆ**—*The Shells of the Ostrea edulis*—*Oyster-shells*.—The varieties of shell have been shewn, by the analysis of Mr. Hatchett<sup>1</sup>, to consist of carbonate of lime, with a variable proportion of animal matter, which is gelatinous or membranous in the porcellaneous shells, but albuminous or cartilaginous in the mother-of-pearl shells. It was formerly customary to employ many varieties of carbonate of lime derived from such sources, but prepared chalk may in all cases be used as a substitute; and it is difficult to say why oyster-shells retain their place in the present list of the *Materia Medica*.

**TIGLII OLEUM**—*Oil of Croton*—*the expressed Oil of the Seeds of the Croton Tiglium*<sup>2</sup>.—This tree is a native of Ceylon, and has been found in Malabar and the Molucca islands. It rises to the height of about 10 feet, and is covered with smooth grey bark. The branches are spreading; the leaves are pointed, serrated, nerved, alternate, and supported on long petioles: they are ovate, smooth, of a dark green on the upper surface, and paler underneath. Both the male and female flowers are in racemes: the male flowers consist of a cylindrical 5-toothed calyx: the corolla is formed of 5 petals, of a straw colour; there are 10 to 15 stamina. In the female flowers the calyx is many-cleft, and reflected under the germen: there is no corolla, and three bifid styles. The capsule is trilocular, ovate, coriaceous, and smooth; the partitions are thin, and each loculus contains one seed: the seeds are convex on one side, and somewhat concave on the other, and vary in colour between yellow and brown.

Every part of this plant is said to be purgative, but the seeds are especially so, and used formerly to be employed in pharmacy under the name of *Molucca grains*. Their expressed oil has been lately re-introduced as a very powerful cathartic, in cases of obstinate and protracted constipation, or where a violent evacuator is required, as in some cases of apoplexy and injury of the brain, and in certain convulsive, hypochondriac, and maniacal affections. The average dose for an adult is one or at the utmost two drops; and perhaps the best, or at least

<sup>1</sup> Philos. Trans. 1799.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 21. Ord. 8. Monœcia Monadelphica. Nat. Ord. Euphorbiæ.

the most active, form for exhibiting it, is in a pill with bread crumb; it may also be rubbed down with mucilage, and so diffused in half an ounce or an ounce of any aromatic water; but the violence of its operation is certainly somewhat diminished by this kind of dilution.

R. Mucil. Acaciæ ʒj.

Ol. Tigllii gutta una; tere simul et adde

. Aquæ Menthæ viridis fʒvj.

M. fiat haustus purgans.

This quantity sometimes proves violently operative, emptying the bowels completely of their contents, and exciting a very copious watery secretion from them. Larger doses have been given without effect, but this remedy should always be administered with the utmost caution. It should also be remembered that different samples of the oil differ extremely in activity.

**TORMENTILLÆ RADIX**—*The Root of the Tormentilla officinalis*<sup>1</sup>.—This plant is common in dry pastures, and flowers about June. The root is perennial, thick, roundish, irregularly conical, and covered with dark brown bark: the interior is dense and reddish; it sends forth many stems, which grow a few inches high; they are round, slender, firm, hairy, and branched towards the top. The leaves are nearly sessile, ternate, lanceolate, serrated, and hairy: the flowers are on long, opposite, solitary, one-flowered peduncles: the calyx consists of ovate, hairy segments, alternately large and small: the petals are yellow; they have short claws, and are obcordate: the seeds are few and wrinkled.

Tormentil root is a powerful astringent, and may be substituted for many other analogous remedies already adverted to. It may be given in substance in doses of 30 or 40 grains, or it may be used in infusion or decoction; but catechu is generally a preferable remedy.

Officinal Preparation. *Pulv. Cretæ compos.*

**TOXICODENDRI FOLIA**—*The Leaves of the Rhus Toxicodendron*<sup>2</sup>—*Poison Oak, or Sumach*.—This plant is a native of North America: its sap becomes black by exposure to air, and has been used as a dye and as marking ink. Its leaves are alternate, on long petioles, and are composed of 3 oval leaflets, angularly indented, glossy green on the upper, and hoary on the under surface: they are about 3 inches long

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 12. Ord. 5. Icosandria Polygynia. Nat. Ord. Senticosæ, Linn. Rosaceæ, Juss.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Dumosæ, Linn. Terebintaceæ, Juss.



and an inch and a half broad. The male and female flowers are on distinct plants: the former spring from the sides of the stalks in close short spikes: the latter are larger, and produced in loose panicles: the germen is roundish, and supports 3 short styles: the fruit is a striated berry.

A grain of the powdered leaves of this plant, 3 or 4 times a day, is said to have been effectual in certain paralytic affections; but it is a remedy rarely employed, and upon which very little dependence can be placed. It appears to be a narcotic stimulant; but the principle on which its activity depends has not been ascertained: it is extremely acrid and poisonous, so that caution is required even in gathering the leaves.

**TRAGACANTHA**—*The Gum of the Astragalus verus*<sup>1</sup>—*Gum Dragon, or Tragacanth*.—The shrub which affords Tragacanth is a native of Persia: it is scarcely 3 feet high, and its stem about an inch thick: it has numerous crowded branches, covered with scales and spines: the leaves are about half an inch long, and are composed of several pairs of opposite, villous, pointed leaflets, the midrib being terminated by a sharp point: the flowers, which are small and yellow, proceed from the axillæ of the leaves. The corolla is papilionaceous, and 5-toothed.

The gum is chiefly produced in Persia, and exported from Aleppo. The best is in the form of white, semitransparent, contorted, and vermiform pieces, not very readily soluble in water, but softening and swelling in that liquid like cherry-tree gum. The yellow, brown, and dirty varieties should be rejected. As an article of the *Materia Medica*, its virtues nearly resemble those of gum arabic, to which it is preferred for many pharmaceutical purposes, as forming a more tenacious mucilage.

According to Bucholz, 100 parts of fine Tragacanth consist of—

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Bassorin (cerasin of other writers) ..... | 43  |
| Common gum .....                          | 57  |
|   | 100 |

Officinal Preparation. *Pulvis Tragacanthæ compos.*

**TUSSILAGO**—*Tussilago farfara*<sup>2</sup>, or *Coltsfoot*.—This indigenous perennial grows in moist soils, and flowers in March and April: the leaves appear in May and June; the root is long and creeping, sending up many bare erect stems, simple,

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 17. Ord. 4. Diadelphia Decandria. Nat. Ord. Leguminosæ.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 19. Or. 2. Syngenesia Superflua. Nat. Ord. Corymbiferae.

one-flowered, and downy, with scaly bractes lying close to the stem: the flower is yellow, and the calyx consists of linear, smooth scales: the florets of the ray are numerous, spreading, linear, twice the length of those of the disc, and with a more slender stigma: the leaves are radical, petiolate, erect, cordate, angled, and dentated; smooth and green above, but white and woolly beneath.

Coltsfoot is a very mucilaginous herb, and a decoction of its leaves is sometimes used as a demulcent and diluent in coughs and catarrhs. It has nothing to sanction its retention in the *Materia Medica*. Dr. Paris informs us that the nostrum sold under the name of *Essence of Coltsfoot* is a solution of tolu balsam in compound tincture of benzoin and spirit of wine, and consequently calculated to do infinite mischief in those affections of the chest for which the ignorant vulgar frequently employ it.

**VALERIANÆ RADIX**—*The Root of the Valeriana officinalis*<sup>1</sup>—*Wild Valerian*.—Valerian is an indigenous perennial, flowering in June, with long fibrous roots, and stems which rise 3 or 4 feet high, round, hollow, and terminated by the flowers: the leaves decrease in size towards the summit: those on the stem are in pairs, composed of several lance-shaped, dentated, veined, smooth pinnæ, with the largest at the end: the radical leaves are larger, and stand upon long footstalks, and the pinnæ are elliptical and deeply serrated: the floral leaves are spear-shaped and pointed: the flowers are small, white or reddish, and in bunches: there is no calyx: the corolla is a narrow tube, divided at the limb into 5 obtuse segments: the 3 filaments are tapering, longer than the corolla, and furnished with round anthers: the germen is placed beneath the corolla, and supports a slender style, with a thick bearded stigma: the capsule is crowned with a radiated feather, and contains 1 oblong seed.

The well-known fetid odour of this root, so enticing to cats, has given it some celebrity in nervous and hysterical affections. Its taste is warm and bitter, and it imparts its virtues to water, so that it is best administered in infusion or decoction; but its flavour is impaired by long boiling. As an antispasmodic and tonic, in certain nervous affections and morbid irritability, valerian is certainly useful; and upon the same principle, it is no unimportant adjunct to cinchona in those stages of typhoid and nervous fevers where that remedy is indicated.

Speaking of the use of valerian as a nervous tonic, Dr. Heberden says, "it has often been given without much appa-

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<sup>1</sup> Cl. 3. Ord. I. Triandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Dipsacæ.



rent effect; but yet I have met with some whom it threw into such agitations and hurries of spirits, as plainly showed that it is by no means powerless. Most cats are fond of gnawing it, and seem to be almost intoxicated by it into outrageous playfulness; and the nerves of cats afford a very tender test of the powers which any substances possess of affecting the nerves. The poisoned darts of the Indians, tobacco, opium, brandy, and all the inebriating nervous poisons, are far more sensibly felt by this animal than by any other that I know of an equal size."

An ounce of the bruised root may be boiled for 10 minutes with 12 ounces of water, and of this decoction 2 ounces may be taken twice or three times a day, with the addition of a drachm of the tincture. Valerian sometimes appears to act as a vermifuge when taken in large doses. So considerable a proportion of valerian root consists of mere inert woody fibre, that the powder cannot be considered a commendable form for its exhibition. As an antihysterical it is usually conjoined with assafoetida, ammonia, and other nervous stimulants.

R Decoct. Valerianæ,  
Misturæ Camphoræ, aa f ʒijss.  
Tinct. Valerianæ Ammoniatæ,  
Syrup. Aurant. aa f ʒss.

M. cochl. iij. pro dosi.

According to Tromsdorff, 100 parts of dry valerian root contain—

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Volatile oil .....                | 1·2  |
| Peculiar resinous extractive..... | 12·5 |
| Gummy extract .....               | 9·4  |
| Resin .....                       | 6·2  |
| Woody fibre .....                 | 70·7 |

100

Official Preparations. *Tinctura Valerianæ*. *Tinctura Valerianæ Ammon.*

**VERATRI RADIX**—*The Root of the Veratrum album*<sup>2</sup>, or *white Hellebore*.—This plant is a native of Switzerland and Italy; it has a perennial, thick, fibrous root, and the stem, which is about 4 feet high, is thick, strong, round, upright, and hairy; the leaves are numerous, large, oval, entire, ribbed, plaited, yellowish-green, and embrace the base of the stem; the flowers are hermaphrodite, and male, of a greenish colour, and in long terminal spikes: the hermaphrodites are without

<sup>1</sup> Commentaries, 3d. edit. p. 357.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 23. Ord. 1. Polygamia Monœcia. Nat. Ord. Coronariæ, Linn. Junci, Juss.

calyxes; the corolla consists of 6 petals, oblong, veined, persistent, and pale-green; the filaments are 6, shorter than the corolla, and support quadrangular anthers; the germens are 3, erect and oblong, with short, hairy styles, and flat stigmata; the capsules are 3, oblong, compressed, erect, 2-celled, and contain several compressed, membranous seeds; the male flowers are deficient in the germens.

According to MM. Pelletier and Caventou, the poisonous quality of this plant is referrible to a peculiar salifiable base to which they have given the name *Veratrine*, and which is identical with the active principle of colchicum. The whole plant is eminently acrid and poisonous; the root is pungent and bitter, and when fresh has a peculiar odour, which, with much of its acrimony, is lost on drying; it has a greyish-yellow colour, breaks short, and is wrinkled upon the surface. It is said to be occasionally mixed with gentian, and, like that plant, it grows in the mountains of Germany, Switzerland, and the north of Europe.

The operation of white hellebore is so violent that it is very rarely used internally; it purges and vomits even in small doses, and in larger ones excites fainting, convulsions, and excessive and dangerous debility. Although, therefore, it has been prescribed in some cases of mania, of epilepsy, and paralysis, the uncertainty of its effect has induced modern practitioners to reject it. It is sometimes used largely diluted with some inert powder, as a sternutatory in paralytic affections, and especially in gutta serena; but it is not preferable to other safer remedies. The decoction is occasionally prescribed as a lotion in scabies and some other eruptive disorders; and it is a favourite ingredient in the washes used by cattle-doctors. It often proves, however, even in this way, dangerously active.

Official Preparations. *Decoctum Veratri. Unguentum Veratri. Unguent. Sulphuris compos.*

**ULMI CORTEX**—*The Bark of the Ulmus campestris*<sup>1</sup>, or common *Elm*.—This indigenous tree flowers in April, before the leaves appear; the bark is rough on the trunk, but smoother and fibrous on the branches; the leaves are rough, serrate, and dark-green; the flowers are clustered, numerous, and small, of a reddish-brown colour, and agreeable odour; the capsules are oblong.

A decoction of elm-bark has been recommended in herpetic eruptions as an internal remedy. It appears to have little efficacy, and might be discarded from the Pharmacopœia.

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Amentaceæ.



According to Davy, elm-bark contains 2·8 per cent. of tannin. Rinck obtained from 100 parts—

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Resin.....                      | 0·63  |
| Gum and mucilage.....           | 20·30 |
| Gallic acid and tan .....       | 6·50  |
| Oxalate of lime.....            | 6·30? |
| Muriate of soda (potassa?)..... | 4·60  |
| Lignin and loss .....           | 61·67 |
|                                 | <hr/> |
|                                 | 100   |

**UVÆ PASSÆ**—*The dried Fruit of the Vitis vinifera*<sup>1</sup>—*Raisins*.—The general characters of the vine are too well known to require description. The flowers, which appear in June and July, are small, clustered, odorous, and accompanied by tendrils; the calyx is small; the petals are greenish-white, adherent at the tips, and fall off from the anthers, which then spread and shed their pollen. The fruit is extremely agreeable and cooling, and aperient and diuretic when eaten in quantities.

Raisins are gently aperient.

The juice of ripe white grapes contains sugar, mucilage, gluten, malic acid, and malate of lime, tartrate of lime, and bitartrate of potassa.

The juice of unripe white grapes contains, according to Geiger—

|                                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| Tartaric acid (about 1 per cent.)   |
| Malic acid (about 2 per cent.)      |
| Bitartrate of potassa.              |
| Malate of lime.                     |
| Sulphate of lime.                   |
| Phosphate of lime.                  |
| Muriate of lime (a trace.)          |
| Gallic acid.                        |
| Tan.                                |
| Saccharine and extractive (no gum.) |
| Green resin and wax.                |
| Fibre.                              |

**UVÆ URSI FOLIA** — *The Leaves of the Arbutus Uva Ursi*<sup>2</sup>—*the Trailing Arbutus, or Bear Berry*.—This plant is a native of the north of Britain, and flowers in June; it has a perennial, branched, and fibrous root; the stems are numerous, procumbent, spreading, woody, about a foot long, and seldom branched; the leaves are oblong, obtuse, entire, thick, smooth, without footstalks, dingy-green, and closely surround the upper

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Vitis.

<sup>2</sup> Cl. 10. Ord. 1. Decandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Ericæ.

part of the stalk; the flowers are pale-pink, and terminate the stems in clusters; the calyx is small and 5-toothed, the corolla is a single, tubular petal, oval, contracted, and divided at the margin into 5 small, reflexed segments; the filaments are short, downy, tapering, and crowned with erect, reddish anthers; the germen is oval; the style tapering, and terminated by a simple stigma; the fruit is a pulpy, red berry.

The leaves of this plant are astringent and sweetish-bitter; in the form of powder they have been given in doses of from 20 to 60 grains, in calculous affections and diseased kidneys, but with very doubtful benefit. They may also be used in decoction, as a tonic, for which half an ounce of the bruised leaves may be boiled for ten minutes in 12 ounces of water, and strained. *Uva ursi* has probably no efficacy beyond that of a mere astringent.

According to Meissner, 100 parts of the dry leaves contain—

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Gallic acid .....                             | 1·20  |
| Tannin .....                                  | 36·40 |
| Resin .....                                   | 4·40  |
| Chlorophyll .....                             | 6·35  |
| Extractive, with malate and citrate of lime.. | 4·17  |
| Gum, and extractive soluble in potassa .....  | 33·30 |
| Lignin .....                                  | 9·60  |
| Water .....                                   | 4·58  |
| <hr/>   |       |
| 100   |       |

**ZINCUM—Zinc.**—This metal is not used in medicine in its pure form. Its oxide and some of its salts, especially the sulphate, are valuable remedies.—(See Part II.) The specific gravity of zinc is about 7.

**ZINGIBERIS RADIX—The Root of the *Zingiber officinale*<sup>1</sup>—Ginger.**—This valuable plant is a native of the East Indies, and grows in perfection on the coast of Malabar and Bengal; it is abundantly cultivated in the warmer parts of America, and in the West India islands, whence Europe is chiefly supplied.

The root is perennial, firm, knotted, compressed, rugose, ash-coloured, and fibrous; the internal substance of the younger roots is softish, fleshy, and green, hence they are much esteemed for preserving in sugar; of the older it is compact, fibrous, and pale-buff colour; the stalks are about 3 feet high, round, and inclosed in a membranous sheathing; the leaves are sword-shaped, smooth, pointed, entire, and stand alternately upon the sheaths of the stalk; the stem rises about a foot high, is

<sup>1</sup> Cl. 1. Ord. 1. Monandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Cannæ.



erect, round, and terminates in an imbricated spike; the flowers appear between the bracteal scales of the spike: they are dingy-yellow, monopetalous, tubular, and cut into 3 acute segments, with their points curled outwards; the nectary occupies the mouth of the tube of the corolla, and has a bilabiated appearance; the lip, which is obtusely trifid, is purple, with yellow spots; the anthers are 2, oblong, and lodged in the cavity of the stamen; the style is long and filiform; the stigma obtuse and villous; the capsule 3-celled, and contains many seeds.

The root of ginger is imported, preserved in syrup and in a dry state, from the East and West Indies. It should be sound, clear, and heavy, neither worm-eaten, very fibrous, nor in too small pieces. It imparts its flavour to water and alcohol; the former also extracts from it a large portion of starch; the latter dissolves little else than its odorous and acrid principle. In the form of powder, ginger is a good carminative stimulant, and has been found of service in the flatulency and dyspepsia of gouty habits; it is a valuable adjunct to several other remedies, and especially effective in diminishing the griping tendency of senna, jalap, and similar purges. When chewed, it promotes the flow of saliva, and often relieves toothach. Combined with rhubarb, it forms a good stomachic pill, especially in those cases where flatulency and rumbling come on before meals, and when the stomach is nearly empty.

R Zingiberis Pulver. ʒj.

Rhei Pulver. ʒss.

Olei Caryophyllorum ℥iv.

Misce et divide in pilulas xvij., quarum sumantur duæ vel tres ante prandium.

According to Bucholz, 100 parts of white ginger consist of—

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Volatile oil .....                                | 1·55  |
| Aromatic resin .....                              | 3·60  |
| Bitter extractive, soluble in pure alcohol....    | 0·65  |
| Acrid extractive, insoluble in pure alcohol...    | 10·50 |
| Gum .....   | 12·05 |
| Glutinous extractive, separated by caustic alkali | 26·00 |
| Bassorin and starch.....                          | 28·05 |
| Lignin.....                                       | 8·00  |
| Water .....                                       | 9·60  |

---

100

Officinal Preparations. *Syrupus Zingiberis*. *Syrupus Rhamni*. *Tinctura Zingiberis*. *Tinct. Cinnam. compos.* *Confectio Opii*. *Confectio Scammoneæ*. *Infus. Sennæ compositum*. *Pulvis Cinnamomi compositus*. *Pulvis Scammoneæ compositus*. *Pulvis Sennæ compositus*. *Pilulæ Scillæ compositæ*. *Vinum Aloës*.





A

# MANUAL OF PHARMACY.

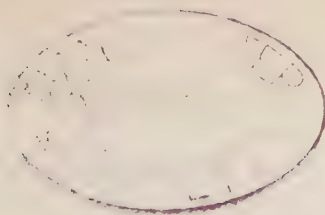
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## PART II.

### PREPARATIONS AND COMPOUNDS.







# MANUAL OF PHARMACY.

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## PART II.

### PREPARATIONS AND COMPOUNDS.

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#### ACIDS.

##### *Acidum Aceticum Dilutum.*

##### *Diluted Acetic Acid.*

R Aceti congiūm ;

Destillet Acidum Aceticum dilutum balneo arenæ, ex retortâ vitreâ in receptaculum vitreum et frigefactum ; tum, primo octario rejecto, octarios sex proximè destillatos serva.

Take of Vinegar, a gallon ;

Let the dilute Acetic Acid be distilled from a glass retort, placed in a sand-bath, into a glass receiver kept cool ; having rejected the first pint which distils over, reserve the six succeeding pints.

UNDER the head *Acetum*, in the Materia Medica, the composition and properties of acetic acid are detailed.

When common vinegar is distilled, the first portion which passes over contains alcohol, and is therefore rejected. The next six-eighths, which are above directed to be retained, consist of dilute acetic acid, contaminated by a little empyreumatic matter, and a substance generally regarded as of a mucilaginous nature : the residuary eighth, remaining in the retort, is of a deep brown colour, very sour, empyreumatic, and contains free tartaric and malic acids, bitartrate of potassa, and a portion of vegetable matter having the characters of extractive.

Distilled vinegar is not always prepared in glass vessels, but generally in a copper alembic, to which a worm of pewter is adapted as a refrigerator ; hence the impurities sometimes found in this acid ; an earthenware condensing pipe is pre-



ferable, but there is a difficulty in keeping it sufficiently cool in consequence of its bad conducting power in regard to heat; it might be made of silver, very thin, and would then be liable to no objection, as that metal is not acted on by acetic acid of any strength. A considerable improvement in the distillation of vinegar consists in using the heat of high-pressure steam for the purpose, instead of that of an ordinary open fire; the risk of empyreuma, which often takes place at an early period of the process, is thus prevented, and a larger portion may usually be distilled off before any foreign flavour is perceptible.

The usual specific gravity of distilled vinegar is from 1007 to 1009; in the latter case 1000 grains require 145 grains of crystallised carbonate of soda for their saturation, and it may be regarded as composed of one part by weight of the *acidum aceticum fortius* of the *Materia Medica*, and five of water. Dilute acetic acid thus prepared, by diluting the concentrated acid, is in all respect preferable to that obtained by the distillation of vinegar, especially for pharmaceutical purposes. Its uses in medicine have already been adverted to (p. 9).

### *Acidum Benzoicum.*

### *Benzoic Acid.*

℞ Benzoini libram;

‡ Vasi vitreo arenæ imposito Benzoinum immitte, et calore gradûs 300<sup>mi</sup> adhibito et paulatim aucto, sublima donec nihil ampliùs ascendat: quod sublimatum est chartâ bibulâ involutum comprime, ut à parte oleosâ separetur: dein iterum sublima, calore non ultra gradum 400<sup>m</sup> aucto.

Take of Benzoin, a pound;

Put the Benzoin into a glass vessel placed in a sand-bath; and having heated it to 300°, sublime, gradually increasing its temperature until no more acid rises; fold the sublimate in bibulous paper and press it, so as to free it from the adhering oil; then sublime it again at a temperature not exceeding 400°.

This is the simplest, and, upon the whole, the most economical process for obtaining benzoic acid: good benzoin thus affording from 10 to 12 per cent. of the acid contaminated by empyreumatic oil, and about 8 or 9 per cent. of the purified acid. If it be desired to have benzoic acid in large prismatic crystals, it may be so procured by the slow evaporation of its alcoholic solution. An acid closely resembling the benzoic is contained in the urine of graminivorous quadrupeds.

Benzoic acid, as it usually occurs, is in soft flocculent crystals, of an agreeable aromatic odour, sparingly soluble in cold water. Boiling water dissolves about one twenty-fifth of

its weight, and deposits it copiously as it cools. Its taste is more sweet and pungent than acid, but it reddens delicate vegetable blues. Its ultimate components are 15 atoms of carbon, 6 of oxygen, and 3 of hydrogen, and its equivalent number = 120.

The utility of this acid in medicine is very problematical; it once had credit as a pulmonic stimulant, and was accordingly used in certain catarrhal and asthmatic affections, in doses of from ten to twenty grains. The only compound into which it enters in the present Pharmacopœia is the *tinctura camphoræ composita*, in which there is the same quantity of opium, so that the benzoic acid cannot be considered as possessing any efficacy in the doses in which it can there be administered. The best form for its administration is that of pill or electuary.

Dr. Paris says, that in certain cases of tracheal irritation, a pill composed of 2 grains of Benzoic acid and 3 of extract of poppy, has been serviceable; or the following

R Acid, Benzoici gr. iij.  
Myrrhæ Pulver. gr. x.  
Pulver. Tragac. compos. gr. xij.  
Fiat pulvis ex melle sumendus.

### *Acidum Citricum.*

### *Citric Acid.*

R Limonum Succo octarium,  
Cretæ preparatæ unciam, vel  
quantum satis sit ad Succum  
saturandum,  
Acidi sulphurici diluti fluiduncias  
novem;

Succo Limonum fervefacto Cretam paulatim adjice, et misce; tum liquorem effunde. Citratem Calcis, quæ remanet, aquâ tepidâ sæpius renovatâ ablue; dein sicca. Tum pulveri exsiccato superinfunde Acidum sulphuricum dilutum, et coque per sextam horæ partem. Liquorem per linteum fortiter exprime, et per chartam cola; colatum leni calore consume, adeo ut dum frigescit, fiant crystalli.

Crystallinos, ut puræ sint, iterum et tertio in Aquâ liqua, eamque toties cola, decoque, et sepone.

Take of Lemon Juice, a pint,  
Prepared Chalk, an ounce  
or a sufficient quantity to  
saturate the Juice.  
Diluted sulphuric Acid, nine  
fluid ounces;

Add the Chalk by degrees to the hot Lemon Juice, and mix them; then pour off the liquor. Wash the remaining Citrate of Lime repeatedly with warm water; then dry it. Add the diluted sulphuric acid to the dried powder, and boil it for ten minutes. Press the liquor forcibly through a linen cloth, and then filter it through paper; evaporate the filtered liquor by the aid of a gentle heat, so that crystals may form in it as it cools.

That the crystals may be pure, dissolve them a second and a third time in water, filtering, evaporating, and crystallising each solution.



When lemon juice is evaporated to the consistency of syrup, the separation of crystallised citric acid is prevented by the mucilaginous matter in which the juice abounds: hence the necessity of the above circuitous process originally devised by Scheele for obtaining the pure acid, in which citrate of lime is first formed and afterwards decomposed by the diluted sulphuric acid, which uniting to the lime forms sulphate of lime and liberates the citric acid. The product of the first evaporation of the filtered liquor above mentioned is a crop of brown crystals, previous to the formation of which a considerable portion of sulphate of lime separates, which should be got rid of by filtration. The first crops of crystals are easily procured colourless by the second or third solution and crystallisation; but those which are afterwards obtained from the different residuary mother liquors retain their colouring matter more obstinately, and the solutions generally require to be discoloured by filtration through newly-burnt charcoal, or by other means which suggest themselves to the experienced manufacturer.

It appears from Mr. Phillips's experiments that fresh lemon juice of the specific gravity of 1044 is almost precisely equal in strength to distilled vinegar of the specific gravity 1009, since two parts of the former are saturated by 14.8 grains of carbonate of soda, and the same quantity of the latter by 14.5 grains<sup>1</sup>. He also states that a pint of lemon-juice weighing 15 ounces and 6 drachms and a half, decomposes a few grains more than 6 drachms of chalk: these proportions apply to lemon-juice of average strength; but its saturating power varies considerably with the state of the fruit; and when it has fermented, its saturating power remaining the same, its proportion of *citric acid* is often diminished.

Citric acid can only be manufactured economically upon a large scale, the principal waste accruing from the difficulty of obtaining the last portions of acid from the brown mother liquors. Upon this subject the reader may advantageously consult Mr. Parkes's *Chemical Essays*<sup>2</sup>.

Pure citric acid may be obtained in colourless crystals, the primary form of which appears to be a right rhombic prism, but subject to a variety of complex modifications. They are slightly deliquescent, and contain about 23.5 per cent. of water of crystallization, of which only about 6 per cent. can be expelled by heat without decomposing the acid. The analysis

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<sup>1</sup> Trans. of Pharm. p. 22.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. i. p. 539. 2d edition.

of certain anhydrous compounds of citric acid affords the number 58 as its equivalent, and the crystals therefore may be regarded as containing—

|   |                                |                   |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | proportional of Dry Acid. .... | = 58              |
| 2 | ————— Water .....              | $9 \times 2 = 18$ |
|   |                                | <hr/> 76          |

Like most other vegetable acids, the citric is a triple compound of oxygen, hydrogen, and carbon, the proportionals of which appear to be 4 carbon, 4 oxygen, 2 hydrogen : =58 citric acid.

Assuming dry citrate of lime to be composed of 28 lime and 58 citric acid, its equivalent number will be 86; and 86 parts of dry citrate will require 49 of liquid sulphuric acid of the specific gravity 1.8 for their decomposition in the process for obtaining the pure acid: this is always necessarily diluted with a large proportion of water, to prevent the decomposition of a portion of the citric by the sulphuric acid, which otherwise would occur.

Lemon juice and solution of citric acid are abundantly employed in medicine, chiefly in the preparation of cooling drinks; and, saturated with potassa, in saline draughts. Sometimes citrate of ammonia is used, which is probably somewhat more diaphoretic than citrate of potassa; but these compounds are very inert in themselves, though elegant vehicles for some of the more active diaphoretics and expectorants. The following are the ordinary prescriptions for saline draughts:—

R Potassæ Subcarbonatis ʒj.  
 Succī Limonum recentis fʒss. vel q. s.  
 Aquæ f ʒj.  
 Spirit. Myristicæ,  
 Syrupi Simplicis, aa f ʒj. M.

R Ammoniæ Subcarbonatis ʒj.  
 Succī Limonum recent. f ʒvj. vel q. s.  
 Misturæ Camphoræ f ʒvj.  
 Syrup. Tolutani fʒss. M.

Nausea and vomiting are sometimes relieved by the exhibition of a saline draught taken in the act of effervescence, or, in other words, by the effect of free carbonic acid upon the stomach; in this case the following formula is used, in which carbonate (bicarbonate) of potassa is substituted for the subcarbonate (carbonate):—



R Potassæ Carbonatis gr. xxiv.

Aquæ f 3j.

Syrupi Cort. Aurant.

Tinctur Cardam. compos. āā f 3j.

M. fiat haustus in actu effervescentiæ sumendus cum Succo

Limonum recentis f 3ss.

In these formulæ fresh lemon juice communicates a more agreeable flavour than solution of citric acid, but the latter may often be conveniently substituted, especially in the effervescing draught.

20 grains of carbonate of potassa are saturated by 15 grains of crystallised citric acid; the same weight of subcarbonate of potassa requires 18 grains of the acid; and of subcarbonate of ammonia about 26 grains<sup>1</sup>.

The following table of the equivalent proportions of concrete citric acid, and of lemon-juice, necessary to neutralise the carbonates of potassa and of ammonia, is from Dr. Paris's Pharmacologia (p. 346.)

| Citric Acid. | Lemon Juice. | A Scruple of the Alkalies. |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| grs. x.      | f 3iij.      | Carbonate of potassa.      |
| grs. xv.     | f 3iiij.     | Subcarbonate of potassa.   |
| grs. xxv.    | f 3viij.     | Subcarbonate of ammonia.   |

Fresh lemon-juice is a valuable remedy in the cure and prevention of sea-scurvy, but it would appear, from the extensive experience of Sir Gilbert Blane upon this subject, that the solution of the crystallised acid is not an adequate substitute. It deserves to be ascertained how far it might become so, by the addition of gum arabic, or other forms of vegetable mucilage, which is the only ingredient to which the superior efficacy of the fresh juice can be plausibly attributed.

### *Acidum Muriaticum.*

R Sodæ Muriatis exsiccatae libras  
duas,  
Acidi sulphurici pondere uncias  
viginti,  
Aquæ destillatæ octarium cum  
semisse;  
Acidum cum Aquæ octario dimidio

### *Muriatic Acid.*

Take of dried Muriate of Soda, two  
pounds,  
Sulphuric Acid, *by weight*,  
twenty ounces,  
Distilled Water, a pint and  
a half;  
First mix the Acid with half a pint

<sup>1</sup>Phillips's Trans., p. 23.

prius in retortâ vitreâ misce, et his, ubi refrixerint, Sodæ Muriatæ adjice. Aquæ quod reliquum est in receptaculum infunde: tum, retortâ aptatâ, in hanc aquam transeat Acidum muriaticum destillatum ex balneo arenæ, calore gradatim aucto, donec retorta rubescat.

Acidi muriatici pondus specificum est ad Aquæ destillatæ pondus specificum, ut 1·160 ad 1·000.

Sodæ Subcarbonatis crystallorum grana 124 ab hujus acidi granis centum saturantur.

of the water in a glass retort; and when the mixture has cooled, add the Muriate of Soda; pour the remainder of the water into a receiver, and, having adapted the retort, let the muriatic Acid distil over into this water, from a sand bath gradually heated to redness.

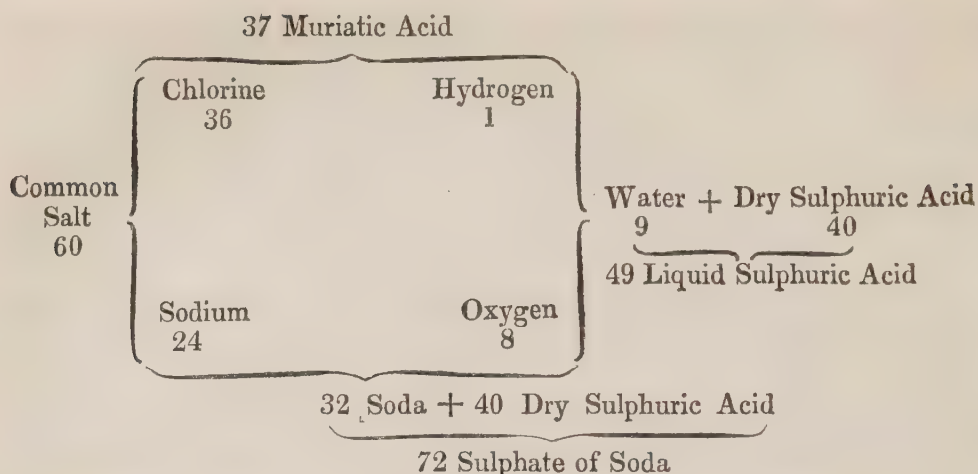
The specific gravity of muriatic Acid is to the specific gravity of distilled Water as 1·160 to 1·000.

124 grains of crystallised Subcarbonate of Soda are saturated by 100 grains of this acid.

This process, originally given by Glauber for the preparation of *spirit of salt* and *sal mirabile*, affords a solution of muriatic acid in water. In its pure form the acid exists as a gas, of which water dissolves 480 times its volume; its specific gravity, compared with common air, is as 1·298 to 1·000; it consists of equal volumes of hydrogen and chlorine, and is therefore properly called *hydrochloric acid*. The specific gravity of hydrogen to chlorine is as 1 to 36, and, accordingly, if these be assumed as the equivalents or representative numbers of those elements, muriatic will be represented by the number 37 or  $1 + 36$ .

The discoveries of Sir H. Davy have taught us that common salt (improperly termed *muriate of soda*, since it neither contains muriatic acid nor soda) is a binary compound of chlorine and sodium in the proportions of 36 parts of the former to 24 of the latter. Sulphuric acid (see p. 13) is a compound of 40 parts of dry acid and 9 of water, which water is composed of 8 of oxygen and 1 of hydrogen; and when, in the above formula, sulphuric acid acts upon common salt, this portion of water is decomposed; its hydrogen combines with the chlorine to form muriatic acid, and its oxygen transferred to the sodium forms soda, which unites with the dry sulphuric acid to form sulphate of soda. These decompositions are further shown in the following table:—





In this table no notice is taken of the excess of water which is present, and which is employed in dissolving the muriatic acid, with which part of it distils over.

The specific gravity of a solution of muriatic acid is directly as the quantity of real acid which it contains: the following table, constructed by Mr. E. Davy, shows the quantity of real gaseous acid contained in the liquid acid of different specific gravities.

| Specific Gravity. | 100 grains contain of Muriatic Acid Gas. | Specific gravity. | 100 Grains contain of Muriatic Acid Gas. |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| 1.21              | 42.43                                    | 1.10              | 20.20                                    |
| 1.20              | 40.80                                    | 1.09              | 18.18                                    |
| 1.19              | 38.38                                    | 1.08              | 16.16                                    |
| 1.18              | 36.36                                    | 1.07              | 14.14                                    |
| 1.17              | 34.34                                    | 1.06              | 12.12                                    |
| 1.16              | 32.32                                    | 1.05              | 10.10                                    |
| 1.15              | 30.30                                    | 1.04              | 8.08                                     |
| 1.14              | 28.28                                    | 1.03              | 6.06                                     |
| 1.13              | 26.26                                    | 1.02              | 4.04                                     |
| 1.12              | 24.24                                    | 1.01              | 2.02                                     |
| 1.11              | 22.30                                    |                   |  |

Muriatic acid carefully distilled according to the above directions is a transparent colourless fluid, which gradually acquires a pale straw colour by keeping; but the acid, as it usually occurs in commerce, is of a yellow tint, derived from a little oxide of iron: it also often contains sulphuric acid, which is discovered by the production of a white cloud upon dropping into the diluted acid a solution of muriate of baryta, a test which is not in the least affected by the acid when pure.

100 grains of the acid having the specific gravity directed by the College (1.160), saturate, according to the Pharmacopœia, 124 grains of crystallised subcarbonate of soda;

according to Phillips, a fluid ounce of this acid weighs 527 grains, and contains, as the table shows, 32·32 per cent. of pure acid.

Muriatic acid, in its undiluted state, is sometimes employed for the destruction of warts, which may be touched with it night and morning; strong acetic acid, however, is a more effectual and certain remedy, and never fails, when properly and regularly applied, to destroy those excrescences. In doses of from 10 to 30 drops in 2 ounces of water this acid is frequently used medicinally as a tonic refrigerant, and in those cases of white sabulous deposits in the urine which depend upon excess of the phosphates: in such cases, it is best given in barley-water, moderately sweetened. As a tonic, it may be combined with bitters, but it is not preferable to the dilute sulphuric acid, and is more apt to occasion purging. Paracelsus used muriatic acid in the cure of putrid fevers, and when it does not purge, it is often a good remedy, especially in malignant sore throat, both internally and as a gargle.

R Acid. Muriatici f3jss.

Decoct. Cinchonæ,

Infus. Rosæ compos. aa f3ijss.

Mellis Rosæ f3j.

M. fiat gargar.

In scorbutic ulceration of the gums, the following local application, conjoined with proper general treatment, has been found effective:—

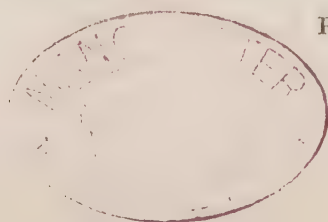
R Acid. Muriatici f3j.

Mellis,

Aquæ Rosæ, aa f3j.

M. fiat linctus ter vel quater die gingivis applicandus.

Muriatic acid gas, being easily produced by pouring sulphuric acid upon common salt, is a ready agent in the destruction of infectious matter, and hence useful for fumigating the houses and apartments of persons suffering under contagious diseases. After the recovery or removal of such persons, the apartments which they have occupied should be thoroughly fumigated, either with muriatic acid gas or chlorine; the latter, though most effective, is dangerous from the violent cough and irritation of the lungs which it is apt to excite. In such cases also great care should be taken that the blankets, clothes, &c. of the sick person are thoroughly scoured and washed; the feather-beds too should be exposed to a heat of about 120° for some hours, by which any infection retained in them will be destroyed. The most common disease in this country, requiring precautions of this kind, is the scarlet fever.





Chlorine is easily generated for the purposes of fumigation by mixing 8 parts of common salt with 3 of powdered black oxide of manganese, and pouring upon this mixture 4 parts of sulphuric acid, previously diluted with 4 of water. These materials may be mixed in a large tea-cup, and placed in a basin containing boiling water, the heat of which will cause the abundant evolution of chlorine. They should be placed in the middle of the room, which should be closed for 48 hours, and then duly ventilated; or, if the apartment is large, 3 or 4 cups, each containing 6 or 8 ounces of the mixture, may be used. These ingredients are sometimes mixed in a strong bottle with a valvular stopper, kept down by a screw: the chlorine is then liberated under pressure, and a portion of it probably liquefied, so that when the pressure is removed by opening the screw, a quantity of gaseous chlorine rushes out.

Chlorine is not mentioned in our Pharmacopœia, but it has a place in most of the foreign Pharmacopœiæ, and its medical virtues are highly thought of by some practitioners in this country; it is, however, generally regarded as of very doubtful efficacy. It has been used internally in scarlet and typhus fever, in malignant sore throat, and in chronic affections of the liver; and externally as a lotion or bath, as an alterative, especially in the hepatic affections under which persons who have long resided in warm climates frequently suffer. Of the concentrated aqueous solution of chlorine, one drachm diluted with an ounce and a half of water may be taken as a dose, sweetened with sugar or capillaire: it cannot be conveniently administered with vegetable infusions. For its external application, *nitro-muriatic acid* is generally resorted to, composed of two parts of muriatic and one of nitric acid; this should be so diluted as to taste as sour as strong vinegar, and should then be applied daily with a sponge to the surface of the body, or used as a bath for the feet and legs. It generally produces a slight cuticular excitement, thirst, and a peculiar taste in the mouth; the bowels become affected, the pulse quickened, and the pain in the region of the liver, the headach, and the symptoms of morbid irritability under which such patients frequently suffer, gradually give way. We owe this introduction of chlorine or nitro-muriatic baths to Dr. Scott, who long resided in India, and used them with great success. Upon the whole, however, the high encomiums at one time bestowed upon them seem not to be justified by further experience.

How far a diluted solution of chlorine might be usefully applied to indolent and foul ulcers, and to correct the secretion of cancerous sores, deserves to be more fully investigated.

*Chloride of lime*, or common *bleaching powder*, and the

solution of *chloride of soda*, usually known as *Labarraque's Disinfecting Liquid*, are often useful as disinfectants; they are also occasionally applied externally to correct the fœtor of foul ulcers.

### *Acidum Nitricum.*

R Potassæ Nitratis exsiccataë,  
Acidi sulphurici, singulorum *pondere* libras duas;

Misce in retorta vitrea, tum balneo arenæ destillet Acidum nitricum, donec vapor ruber prodeat. Dein, adjectâ insuper Potassæ Nitratis exsiccataë uncia, iterum eodem modo Acidum destillet.

Acidi nitrici pondus specificum est ad pondus specificum Aquæ destillatæ, ut 1·500 ad 1·000.

Sodæ Subcarbonatis crystallorum grana 212 ab hujus Acidi granis centum saturantur.

### *Nitric Acid.*

Take of dried Nitrate of Potassa,  
Sulphuric Acid, of each, *by weight*, two pounds;

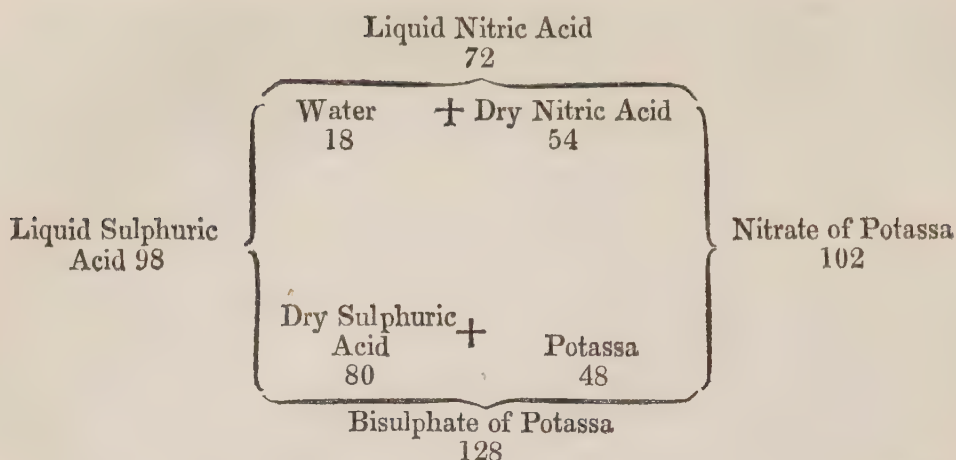
Mix them in a glass retort, and distil the Nitric Acid from a sand-bath, until a red vapour arises: then having added to it one ounce of dry Nitrate of Potassa, let the Acid be redistilled in a similar manner.

The specific gravity of nitric Acid is to the specific gravity of distilled Water, as 1·500 to 1·000.

212 grains of crystallised Subcarbonate of Soda are saturated by 100 grains of this Acid.

In this process the decomposition of the nitre gives rise to the production of nitric acid and bisulphate of potassa; and that these results may be obtained, it is necessary to distil the nitre with nearly its own weight of sulphuric acid, for if less sulphuric acid be employed, a portion of nitrous acid is formed. The requisite theoretical quantities of sulphuric acid and nitre are two proportionals of the former to one of the latter, or by weight  $49 \times 2 = 98$  and 102. The two proportionals of water in the liquid sulphuric acid combine with one proportional of dry nitric acid in the nitre to constitute liquid nitric acid, and the two remaining proportionals of dry sulphuric acid combine with the potassa of the nitre to form bisulphate of potassa, as shown in this diagram:—





Liquid nitric acid, therefore, of the specific gravity 1.5, is a compound of one proportional of dry acid = 54, and two of water = 18, and its equivalent number is 72. Liquid sulphuric acid, on the contrary, is a compound of one proportional of dry acid = 40, and one of water = 9, its equivalent being 49. So that to furnish a due proportion of water for the formation of liquid nitric acid, two proportionals of liquid sulphuric acid ( $49 \times 2 = 98$ ) are required.

The wholesale manufacturers of nitric acid generally employ a distillatory apparatus of earthenware, and use less sulphuric acid than the College directs. The acid vapour is condensed in receivers containing a portion of water, and the liquid acid is usually of a deep orange colour, from the presence of nitrous acid, which, however, may be expelled by heat, and the acid thus becomes colourless. In point of economy it seems doubtful whether the college process or that of the manufacturer, who uses little more than half the quantity of sulphuric acid, is to be preferred. Mr. Phillips observes, that although 24 ounces of nitre, distilled with an equal weight of sulphuric acid, ought, according to theory, to yield upwards of 16 ounces of liquid nitric acid, he has never been able to procure more than 15 ounces and 6 drachms; the deficiency arising from decomposition of nitric acid, and other unavoidable loss.

Nitric acid is a dense colourless liquid, extremely corrosive and caustic; it exhales fumes, when exposed to air, absorbing moisture, and consequently diminishing in specific gravity, while it increases in bulk. Applied to the skin, it tinges the cuticle of an indelible yellow, and causes it soon to peel off. It is decomposed by nearly all the metals and combustible substances; passed through a red-hot tube, it is resolved into nitric oxide, oxygen, and water. In its dry state it consists of—

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 5 \text{ proportionals of Oxygen} \dots 8 \times 5 = 40 \\ 1 \text{ ————— Nitrogen} \dots \dots \dots = 14 \end{array} \right\} = 54$$

And in its most concentrated liquid state it contains—

$$\begin{array}{lcl} 1 & \text{proportional of dry Acid} & \dots\dots\dots = 54 \\ 2 & \text{————— Water} & \dots\dots 9 \times 2 = 18 \end{array} \} = 72$$

When nitric and muriatic acid are mixed, a partial decomposition of both ensues, and, as Sir H. Davy first showed, chlorine and nitrous acid are the results, and a portion of water is formed by the union of the hydrogen of the muriatic acid with a part of the oxygen of the nitric.

The common nitric acid of commerce generally contains traces of sulphuric acid and of potassa, and a very notable proportion of muriatic acid, derived from common salt contained in the rough nitre employed for its production. A very dilute solution of nitrate of baryta is not affected by pure nitric acid, but it is rendered turbid by the presence of sulphuric acid. A dilute solution of nitrate of silver is not altered by pure nitric acid, but when it contains muriatic acid, a white cloud of chloride of silver is formed, which becomes brown by exposure to light. The presence of potassa or nitre, in nitric acid, may be learned by evaporation to dryness; the pure acid leaves no residue.

The medical uses of nitric acid are stated in the next article; it is scarcely employed in its concentrated state, although a very effectual caustic: in this respect it would probably be an efficacious application in the bite of a mad dog, its liquid form enabling it to penetrate into the wound, the surfaces of which would be thus killed and corroded, while its peculiar activity in the decomposition and destruction of almost every kind of animal matter, renders it probable that it would act speedily and energetically upon the poison of the rabid animal. Mr. Welbank recommends this acid as an escharotic in sloughing phagedænic ulcers<sup>1</sup>.

Nitric acid vapour is frequently employed in fumigations for the destruction of contagious and infectious matter; for this purpose, put an ounce of powdered nitre into a tea-cup, and pour upon it as much sulphuric acid; place the cup in a basin containing hot water, and it will continue to emit nitrous fumes for some hours. If the room is large, it is better to use several such cups, placed in several parts of it, than to employ one larger one.

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<sup>1</sup> Med. Chir. Trans., vol. xi. p. 369.



*Acidum Nitricum Dilutum.**Diluted Nitric Acid.*

R Acidi nitrici fluidunciam,  
Aquæ destillatæ fluiduncias novem;

Take of nitric Acid, a fluidounce,  
Distilled Water, nine fluid  
ounces;

Misce.

Mix.

Dilute nitric acid, of the above strength, may be given in doses of from 10 to 40 minims, in an ounce or two of any proper vehicle, such as capillaire and water, or infusion of roses, or in any of the common bitter infusions or decoctions; for although the concentrated acid is decomposed by the greater number of vegetable substances, the diluted acid may be mixed with them without any such effect. Nitric acid is considered as an antiseptic tonic, and is a good remedy in those cases of dyspepsia attended by general debility and nausea, in which the acid plan of treatment is indicated. It is said to have been useful in chronic hepatitis attended by dropsy; and was at one time considered as a powerful remedy in the cure of syphilis; although in such cases it may be occasionally efficacious as a tonic, it is by no means to be regarded as possessing any distinct influence over the disease, corresponding with that of mercury. In some cases of eruptions, and in ulcerations of the legs, an alterative course of medicine, consisting of nitric acid and small doses of mercury, has been found of service: the acid may be given in the morning and at noon, and 5 grains of mercurial pill may be taken at bedtime; the bowels will generally be opened, and sometimes violently affected by this treatment, but these effects may be quelled by opiates. It is very doubtful whether nitric acid is preferable to the other mineral acids as an antiseptic and refrigerant, though it has sometimes been supposed to operate in some peculiar manner by imparting oxygen to the system: no experience, however, justifies such an opinion.

As nitric acid dissolves uric acid as well as the phosphates, chemical physicians have sometimes preferred it as a lithontriptic, and have considered it especially applicable in those cases in which the sand voided is composed of a mixture of those substances: but practice does not sanction such a theory; and where the urine deposits, as it sometimes obstinately does, a sediment consisting of variable proportions of the phosphates and of uric acid, it is usually symptomatic of disordered digestion or of some hepatic affection, and yields to acids with bitters and mild aperients. If, however, the sediment assumes the more decided appearance and symp-

toms of *gravel*, and is attended with pain in the region of the kidneys, and appears in the urine when voided, and not merely as a sediment during its cooling, then it is right to encounter the uric matter with carbonated alkalies, which will generally entirely change the sediment into the phosphates, and these will disappear under the use of tonics, or of a subsequent course of mild acids if necessary.

Nitric acid is applied externally to ill-conditioned sores or ulcers, in various states of dilution, depending upon the effects it produces, which are sometimes very beneficial; two or three drachms of the diluted acid to a pint of water may be used in the first instance, and the strength increased according to circumstances<sup>1</sup>.

The specific gravity of the diluted acid, as prescribed in the formula at the head of this article, is 1.080. According to Mr. Phillips, 100 grains contain 14.3 of concentrated acid, and saturate about 30 grains and one-third of crystallised sub-carbonate of soda, so that their respective strengths *by weight* are to each other as 1 to 7.

### *Acidum Sulphuricum Dilutum.*

### *Diluted Sulphuric Acid.*

℞ Acidi sulphurici, fluidunciam cum semisse,  
Aquæ destillatæ, fluiduncias quatuordecim cum semisse;  
Acidum Aquæ paulatim adjice; tum misce.

Take of sulphuric Acid, a fluidounce and a half,  
Distilled Water, fourteen fluid ounces and a half;  
Add the Acid gradually to the Water, and mix.

This formula furnishes the acid in a convenient state of dilution for medical use: one fluid drachm contains 10 grains of the concentrated acid, specific gravity 1.8. It may be given in doses of from 10 to 30 or 40 minims, and is a very useful tonic: it is also generally considered as astringent, and therefore preferred to the other acids where there is tendency to diarrhœa, to hæmorrhage, or to excessive diaphoresis. The greater number of bitter and astringent vegetable infusions are good vehicles for this acid, especially the compound infusion of roses and of gentian, or a mixture of the two: where the bowels are torpid, sulphate of magnesia may

<sup>1</sup> See Home on Ulcers, 1801, p. 216.



be conjoined with the acid draught; and where it gripes and relaxes, aromatics and small doses of opium may be added. A draught composed of an ounce and a half of compound infusion of roses, and twenty minims of dilute sulphuric acid, is a good vehicle for tincture of opium, where the latter nauseates when given without the acid.

This acid has been used in very large doses in malignant erysipelas with a tendency to hæmorrhage, and also in violent uterine hæmorrhages. In such cases an ounce has been given in the course of twenty-four hours<sup>1</sup>.

In some obstinate cases of gonorrhœa, mucilaginous injections, acidulated by dilute sulphuric acid, have been prescribed; it has also been used as a collyrium in the atonic stages of ophthalmia.

In diluting the concentrated sulphuric acid of commerce, a small portion of sulphate of lead sometimes separates, rendering the mixture of acid and water at first milky, and afterwards falling in the form of a white sediment; this, where it occurs, should be carefully separated by decantation.

### *Acidum Tartaricum.*

℞ Potassæ Supertartratis libras duas  
cum semisse,  
Aquæ destillatæ ferventis congios  
tres,  
Cretæ preparatæ libram,  
Acidi sulphurici libram;

Potassæ Supertartratem coque cum Aquæ destillatæ congiis duobus, et adjice paulatim Cretam præparatam, donec bullulæ non ampliùs excitentur; sepone ut subsidat Calcis Tartaras; liquorem effunde, et Tartratem Calcis Aquâ destillatâ sæpiùs ablue, donec saporis expers sit. Tum superinfunde Acidum sulphuricum Aquæ destillatæ ferventis congio dilutum, et sepone per horas viginti quatuor subindè agitans. Liquorem cola, et balneo aquoso consume ut fiant crystalli.

### *Tartaric Acid.*

Take of Supertartrate of Potassa, two pounds and a half,  
Boiling distilled Water, three gallons,  
Prepared Chalk, a pound,  
Sulphuric Acid, a pound;

Boil the Supertartrate of Potassa with two gallons of the distilled Water and add the prepared Chalk by degrees, until it ceases to cause effervescence. Set by the mixture, that the Tartrate of Lime may subside; pour off the liquor and wash the Tartrate of Lime frequently with distilled Water until it becomes tasteless. Then pour upon it the sulphuric Acid diluted with a gallon of boiling distilled Water, and set them by for twenty-four hours, occasionally stirring them. Strain the liquor, and then evaporate it by a water-bath, so that crystals may form.

Supertartrate or bitartrate of potassa is a compound of one

<sup>1</sup> Thomson, Lond. Disp., p. 583.

proportional of potassa with two of tartaric acid (see p. 174). In the above process one proportional of the tartaric acid unites with one of lime (contained in the carbonate of lime or chalk); hence carbonic acid is expelled, and an insoluble tartrate of lime is formed, composed of —

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1 proportional of Lime ..... | 28    |
| 1 ————— Tartaric Acid .....  | 66    |
|                              | <hr/> |
|                              | 94    |

This compound is decomposed by the sulphuric acid, which, uniting to the lime, forms sulphate of lime, and the tartaric acid is set free. This decomposition of the tartrate of lime corresponds with that of the citrate of lime, described under the head “ Citric Acid ;” and in the evaporations and crystallisations the same precautions are requisite. The actual weights of materials and products required for, and formed in this process, are shown in the following tables, which also exhibit the changes of composition that take place:—

|                              |                         |                     |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Bitartrate of Potassa<br>180 | Tartrate of Potassa 114 | Carbonic Acid<br>22 | Carbonate of Lime<br>50 |
|                              | Tartaric Acid<br>66     | Lime<br>28          |                         |
| Tartrate of Lime 94.         |                         |                     |                         |

The carbonic acid is suffered to escape, and the tartrate of potassa is not directed in the Pharmacopœia to be obtained by evaporating its solution after the separation of the tartrate of lime; the decomposition of the latter by the sulphuric acid is as follows:—

|                            |                      |  |                             |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Solution of Tartaric Acid. |                      |  |                             |
| Tartrate of Lime<br>94     | Tartaric Acid<br>66  |  | Water<br>9                  |
|                            | Water.               |  |                             |
|                            | Lime<br>28           |  | Sulphuric Acid<br>40        |
|                            | Sulphate of Lime 68. |  |                             |
|                            |                      |  | Liquid Sulphuric Acid<br>49 |

In the above tables, the bitartrate of potassa and the tar-



trate of lime are considered as anhydrous salts ; but, according to Berzelius, the former contains between 4 and 5 and the latter between 27 and 28 per cent. of water, in their usual states of dryness. Crystallised bitartrate of potassa may, therefore, (upon this authority,) be regarded as a compound of—

|   |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | proportional of dry Bitartrate of Potassa ... | 180       |
| 1 | ————— Water .....                             | 9         |
|   |   | <hr/> 189 |

And tartrate of lime, dried at a gentle heat, will consist of—

|   |  |                   |
|---|--|-------------------|
| 1 | proportional of dry Tartrate of Lime ..... | 94                |
| 4 | ————— Water .....                          | $9 \times 4 = 36$ |
|   |  | <hr/> 130         |

From which it is evident that 189 parts of purified tartar, with the addition of 50 of chalk, should yield 130 parts of tartrate of lime, which, decomposed by 49 parts of sulphuric acid, should afford 75 parts of *crystallised* tartaric acid, the crystals of that acid containing nearly 12 per cent. of water, and being, therefore, probably composed of—

|   |                                |          |
|---|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | proportional of dry Acid ..... | 66       |
| 1 | ————— Water .....              | 9        |
|   |                                | <hr/> 75 |

It appears, therefore, that the citric and the tartaric acids, in their *crystallised* or usual form, are both represented by nearly the same equivalent number ; and consequently that in this form their saturating powers are almost exactly coequal, though the former includes two, and the latter only one proportional of water.

The crystalline forms of tartaric acid are various and difficultly determined, being derived, according to Mr. Phillips, from a *primary* oblique rhombic prism. The crystals are permanent in the air, and require for their solution about 6 parts of water at 60°. Like the other vegetable acid solutions, this becomes mouldy when kept, and its ultimate elements, carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen, form other secondary compounds.

Tartaric acid may be used as a substitute for citric acid, in the formation of refrigerant drinks ; and, as it does not deliquesce by exposure to air, it is generally employed in the preparation of effervescent powders, used as substitutes for soda water. For this purpose the tartaric acid should be powdered, and dried in a gentle heat ; it should then be mixed in proper

proportions with powdered bicarbonate of potassa or of soda, and kept in well-corked phials: a tea-spoonful stirred into a small tumbler of cold water, affords a pleasant effervescent draught, and is a good vehicle for sulphate of magnesia, potassa-tartrate of soda, or other saline aperients. These effervescing draughts are often effectual in removing a tendency in the urine to deposit the ammonio-magnesian phosphate, especially where water saturated with carbonic acid cannot be procured: in such cases the tartaric acid should be in slight excess.

Seventy-five parts of crystallised tartaric acid saturate 70 of dry subcarbonate, and 101 of crystallised carbonate (bicarbonate) of potassa, and 153 parts of *crystallised* subcarbonate of soda; these numbers bearing the same relation to each other as those above given under the head "Citric Acid."

According to Hermstadt, tartaric acid may be economically manufactured from the juice of sour grapes, 36 ounces of which afford about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ounces of the acid.

Instead of throwing away the neutral tartrate of potassa, it may be decomposed by muriate of lime, by which an additional quantity of tartrate of lime will be obtained.

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## ALKALIES AND THEIR SALTS.

### PREPARATIONS OF AMMONIA.

#### *Ammoniæ Subcarbonas.*

R Ammoniæ Muriatis libram,  
Cretæ Præparatæ exsiccatae libram  
cum semisse;

Separatim in pulverem tere; tum  
misce, et sublima calore paulatim aucto,  
donec retorta rubescat.

#### *Subcarbonate of Ammonia.*

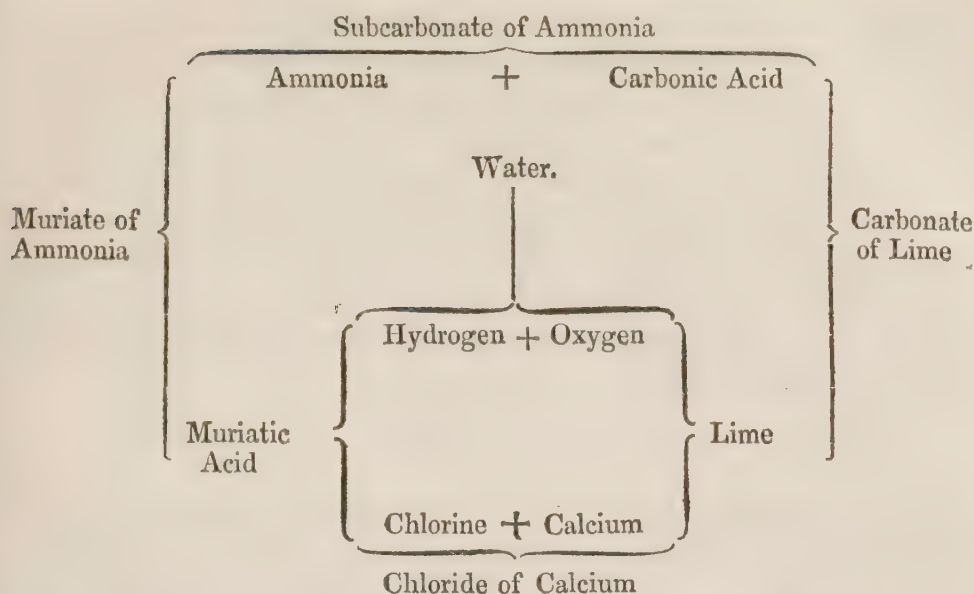
Take of Muriate of Ammonia, a pound,  
Prepared Chalk, dried, a  
pound and a half;

Reduce them separately to powder;  
then mix them, and sublime by raising  
the heat gradually till the retort becomes  
red.

In the above process, muriate of ammonia is decomposed by carbonate of lime, and a compound of carbonic acid, ammonia, and water is obtained, which may be termed *hydrated sesquicarbonate of ammonia*; for it consists of 1 proportional of ammonia,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  of carbonic acid, and 1 of water: or if we double these numbers, to avoid the fraction, its composition will stand thus:—

|   |                               |    |   |   |   |     |
|---|-------------------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|
| 2 | proportionals of Ammonia..... | 17 | × | 2 | = | 34  |
| 3 | ————— Carbonic Acid .....     | 22 | × | 3 | = | 66  |
| 2 | ————— Water .....             | 9  | × | 2 | = | 18  |
|   |                               |    |   |   |   | 118 |

Such appears, from the experiments of Mr. R. Phillips, to be the nature of the compound which is here called “Subcarbonate of Ammonia.” In its formation, the carbonic acid is derived from the chalk, and the ammonia from the muriate, the water being formed at the expense of the oxygen of the lime and the hydrogen of the muriatic acid; the residue in the retort being chloride of calcium, as shown in the following diagram:—



This salt is prepared on the large scale by the wholesale manufacturer, and occurs in the market cheap and pure. Large quantities are also made from the products of the distillation of coal in gas-works; this, however, is rarely pure, having a slight odour of coal tar, and sometimes depositing a blackish carbonaceous matter when dissolved in acids.

It is generally met with in hardish translucent masses, of a striated appearance: it has a pungent odour, a sharp urinous taste, and acts upon vegetable colours in the manner of an alkali. It should be kept in well-stopped bottles, for when exposed to air it gradually loses ammonia, becomes opaque, pulverulent, and less pungent, and ultimately passes into a *hydrated bicarbonate of ammonia*, composed of—

|   |                              |             |
|---|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | proportional of Ammonia..... | 17          |
| 2 | ———— Carbonic Acid.....      | 22 × 2 = 44 |
| 2 | ———— Water .....             | 9 × 2 = 18  |

---

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Subcarbonate of ammonia is an excellent antacid, and nervous stimulant, useful in the same cases as the *liquor ammoniæ*. It is generally administered in solution, and frequently with aromatics, as in the *spiritus ammoniæ compositus*, but its solid form renders it a proper ingredient in pills; and when mixed with extracts, it does not very readily make its escape by evaporation. It may be given in doses of from 2 to 10 or 12 grains; in larger doses it often nauseates.

The following formula may be adopted, where it is desirable thus to exhibit subcarbonate of ammonia.

℞ Ammonia Subcarbonatis pulver.

Extracti Anthemidis, aa ʒss.

Fiat massa in pilulas xij. dividenda, quarum sumatur una vel bis el ter die.



Coarsely bruised, and scented with a little oil of lavender, it forms common *smelling salts*, and is a good nasal stimulant in faintness and hysteria. Reduced to a fine powder, and mixed with spermaceti ointment, it is sometimes usefully applied as a rubefacient, and it may also be employed as an adjunct to opiates and other anodyne plasters for rheumatic and anomalous muscular pains. One part of powdered subcarbonate of ammonia, mixed with 3 of extract of belladonna, and applied in the form of a plaster, is very effectual in allaying rheumatic and spasmodic pains.

### *Liquor Ammoniacæ.*

R Ammoniacæ Muriatis uncias octo,  
Calcis recentis uncias sex,  
Aquæ octarios quatuor;

Calci superinfunde Aquæ octarium;  
tum vas contege et sepone per horam;  
dein Ammoniacæ Muriatem et reliquam  
Aquam priùs fervefactam adjice, et vas  
iterum contege; liquorem postquam  
refruxerit cola; tum destillent Liquoris  
Ammoniacæ fluidunciæ duodecim in re-  
ceptaculum cujus calor gradum 50<sup>mum</sup>  
non superet.

Liquoris Ammoniacæ pondus specificum  
est ad pondus Aquæ destillatæ ut 0·960  
ad 1·000.

### *Solution of Ammonia.*

Take of Muriate of Ammonia, eight  
ounces,  
Fresh Lime, six ounces,  
Water, four pints;

Pour a pint of the water upon the lime,  
and set them by for an hour in a covered  
vessel; then add the Muriate of Am-  
monia and the rest of the water, previ-  
ously heated, and again cover the vessel.  
After the liquor has become cold, strain  
it; and let twelve fluidounces of Solu-  
tion of Ammonia be distilled from it  
into a receiver, cooled to a temperature  
not exceeding 50°.

The specific gravity of Solution of  
Ammonia is to the specific gravity of  
distilled water as 0·960 to 1·000.

This is a weak aqueous solution of ammonia, containing only about 10 per cent. of the pure alkali: the ammonia is evolved, in consequence of the decomposition of the muriate of ammonia by the quicklime, and passes over with the water in distillation. When a gentle heat is applied to a dry mixture of powdered muriate of ammonia and quicklime, pure gaseous ammonia is evolved, which is very rapidly absorbed by water, in the proportion of about 480 times its volume; the bulk of the water is increased, and its specific gravity diminished, a saturated aqueous solution of ammonia having a specific gravity of 0·875 at 50°; so that the strength of liquid ammonia may be said to be inversely as its specific gravity.

The following table, drawn up by Sir H. Davy<sup>1</sup>, will often

<sup>1</sup> Elements of Chemical Philosophy, p. 268.

be found of use to the pharmaceutical chemist: it shows the weight of pure ammonia contained in 100 parts of the solution, at different specific gravities:—

| 100 parts of<br>Sp. Gr. |           | Of Ammonia. | 100 parts of<br>Sp. Gr. |           | Of Ammonia. |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| •8750                   | } contain | 32•50       | •9435                   | } contain | 14•53       |
| •8875                   |           | 29•25       | •9476                   |           | 13•46       |
| •9000                   |           | 26•00       | •9513                   |           | 12•40       |
| •9054                   |           | 25•37       | •9545                   |           | 11•56       |
| •9166                   |           | 22•07       | •9573                   |           | 10•82       |
| •9255                   |           | 19•54       | •9597                   |           | 10•17       |
| •9326                   |           | 17•52       | •9619                   |           | 9•60        |
| •9385                   |           | 15•88       | •9692                   |           | 9•50        |

Ammonia is a compound of hydrogen and nitrogen, in the proportions of 3 of the former to 14 of the latter: its equivalent number is 17.

In medicine, *liquor ammoniæ* is employed as a powerful stimulus: internally, it may be given in doses of from half a drachm to a drachm, considerably diluted, and is useful as a nervous stimulant in certain paralytic affections, and in those cases of indistinct vision and noise in the ears to which nervous persons are subject, and which sometimes appear connected with debilitated digestive powers. Faintness and giddiness are also frequently immediately relieved by a due dose of ammonia; and in heartburn and acidity in the stomach and *primæ viæ*, it is effective, not merely as a stimulant, but also as neutralising the irritating acid matter. In such cases it may be conveniently given with small doses of bitters, and occasionally with a little magnesia, as in the following formula: in all these cases, however, preparations of carbonate of ammonia are usually substituted for the pure alkali:—

R *Liquoris Ammoniæ*,  
*Tinctur. Cardam. compos.*  
*Tinctur. Gentianæ compos.* āā f 3ss.  
*Mistur. Camphoræ.* f ʒiiss.

M. fiat haustus.

In pyrosis or water-brash, ammonia with small doses of opium is of service, and in a variety of spasmodic disorders, similar combinations, with ether, may be resorted to; they also prove diaphoretic.

As a nasal stimulant, liquid ammonia is used for the relief of headach, faintness, and vertigo; a piece of rag moistened with it, and applied to the region of the stomach in cases of spasmodic pains of that viscus; to the throat externally, in



the varieties of inflammatory sore throat; or to the joints in rheumatic affections, is a remedy often useful: but in such cases combinations of ammonia with oily substances are usually to be preferred.

### *Liquor Ammoniaë Acetatis.*

℞ Ammoniaë Subcarbonatis uncias duas,  
Acidi Acetici diluti octarios quatuor, vel quantum satis sit;  
Ammoniaë Subcarbonati adjice Acidum, donec bullulæ non ampliùs excitentur, et misce.

### *Solution of Acetate of Ammonia.*

Take of Subcarbonate of Ammonia, two ounces,  
Diluted Acetic Acid, four pints, or a sufficient quantity;  
Add the Acid to the Subcarbonate of Ammonia until it ceases to excite effervescence, and mix.

Four pints of distilled vinegar of the usual strength (specific gravity 1.009) require about 7 drachms of the recently prepared subcarbonate of ammonia of the Pharmacopœia for their saturation, but the strength of the distilled vinegar and the composition of the subcarbonate, are both liable to vary, so that the best method of proceeding consists in adding the subcarbonate to the distilled vinegar, till the tests of turmeric and litmus show that it is neutralised. The solution thus prepared is generally of a brownish tint, but it may be rendered colourless and pellucid by filtering it through a little well-burned and recently-powdered charcoal. If at first exactly neutral, it is apt to become slightly alkaline by keeping, in consequence of the escape of a little carbonic acid.

Acetate of ammonia is very difficult of crystallisation, and extremely soluble both in alcohol and water. In its dry state it should consist, according to theory, of—

|                                    |   |    |
|------------------------------------|---|----|
| 1 proportional of Acetic Acid..... | = | 51 |
| 1 ————— Ammonia.....               | = | 17 |
|                                    |   | —  |
|                                    |   | 68 |

The solution of this salt, as above directed, has long been used in medicine under the name of *Spirit of Mindererus*, as a diaphoretic febrifuge, and though in itself not very active, it is usefully conjoined with other diaphoretics. The dose of the above solution is from half an ounce to an ounce, in conjunction with syrup of poppies, spirit of sulphuric ether, compound powder of ipecacuanha, antimonials, &c. The following is a good night draught for allaying the restlessness and irritation that often attends a common catarrh:—

R Liq. Ammoniae Acetatis,  
 Mistur. Camphoræ, āā f 3vj.  
 Syrup. Papaveris f 3j.  
 Vini Antimon. Tart. min. xx.

M. ft. haustus hor. s. s.

*Liquor ammoniæ acetatis* is also used externally, as a discutient and stimulant ; it is an excellent application in common cases of mumps ; it should be applied hot upon a flannel. As a collyrium in opacity of the cornea, Boerhaave long ago recommended it diluted with its bulk of water and dropped into the eye. In chronic ophthalmia the following is a useful application :—

R Liq. Ammon. Acet. f 3ss.  
 Aquæ Rosæ f 3iijss.  
 Tinctur. Opii f 3j.

M. ft. collyr.

Mr. A. T. Thomson recommends it as a lotion in porrigo affecting the scalp.

Like many other diaphoretics, if its operation be not aided by external warmth, it is apt to act by the kidneys, and, in some cases, it proves considerably diuretic.

### *Liquor Ammoniae Subcarbonatis.*

R Ammoniae Subcarbonatis uncias  
 quatuor,  
 Aquæ destillatæ octarium ;  
 Liqua Ammoniae Subcarbonatem in  
 Aquâ, et per chartam cola.

### *Solution of Subcarbonate of Ammonia.*

Take of Subcarbonate of Ammonia,  
 four ounces,  
 Distilled Water, a pint ;  
 Dissolve the Subcarbonate of Ammonia in the Water, and filter through paper.

Subcarbonate of ammonia requires about 4 times its weight of cold water for solution, so that the above is a saturated solution of the salt ; it is better, however, to direct the solution to be made at the time it is required for use, than to rely upon the strength of that which has been long prepared : the above formula might indeed have been omitted without any inconvenience.



## PREPARATIONS OF POTASSA.

*Liquor Potassæ.*

℞ Potassæ Subcarbonatis libram,

Calcis recentis libram dimidiam,  
Aquæ destillatæ ferventis congium;

Liqua Potassam in Aquæ octariis duobus. Calci adjice Aquæ quod reliquum est. Liquores calentes inter se misce; tum sepone in vase clauso, et, postquam refrigerint, per pannum gossipinum cola.

Si Acidum dilutum quodlibet instillatum bullulas excitet, plus Calcis adjicere oportebit, et iterum colare.

Hujus Liquoris octarius pendere debet uncias sedecim.

*Solution of Potassa.*

Take of Subcarbonate of Potassa, a pound,  
Fresh Lime, half a pound,  
Boiling distilled Water, a gallon;

Dissolve the Subcarbonate of Potassa in two pints of the Water. Add the remaining Water to the Lime. Mix the hot liquors together; then set the mixture by in a covered vessel, and after it has cooled, filter the solution through a cotton strainer.

If effervescence be excited by dropping any diluted acid into the solution, more Lime must be added, and the solution again strained.

A pint of this solution ought to weigh sixteen ounces.

In this process the lime becomes converted into carbonate of lime at the expense of the carbonic acid of the subcarbonate of potassa, and an aqueous solution of pure potassa is obtained: the insoluble carbonate of lime is rejected. The "Liquor Potassæ" thus procured is sufficiently pure for the purposes for which it is required in medicine and pharmacy; but it always retains a little carbonic acid, and portions of other foreign substances. When the pint measure weighs 16 ounces troy, the specific gravity is 1.056.

*Liquor potassæ* should be clear and colourless; its taste is acrid, and it rapidly destroys the texture of the greater number of animal and vegetable substances. It changes most of the vegetable blues to green, and the yellows to brown; it dissolves gums, resins, and extractive matters, and readily combines with fats and oils, rendering them soluble in water; it is, therefore, powerfully detergent.

In doses of from 10 to 40 or 50 drops, this solution of potassa is used as an antacid, and as a lithontriptic in cases of uric diathesis; in all these cases, however, the subcarbonate of potassa is usually to be preferred. There are many cutaneous disorders which appear to arise from the presence of acid matter in the stomach and *primæ viæ*, and these are often relieved or cured by the administration of this remedy; but here also the subcarbonate is equally effectual, and less liable

to disagree and nauseate: subcarbonate of magnesia is perhaps, in such cases, preferable to either. As uric acid is soluble in caustic, but not in carbonated potassa, the former has on that account been regarded as the most chemical and effectual remedy in cases of red gravel; but this reasoning is inapplicable, since the potassa can never reach the kidneys in its caustic state: indeed, the beneficial effects of alkaline remedies do not depend upon direct or actual *solvent power*, but upon some more recondite effect produced upon the *primæ viæ*, by which the secretion of excess of uric acid is indirectly obviated. There are, however, instances in which *liquor potassæ* seems more effective than any other alkaline remedy in the cure of uric sand, so that it should not be rejected as a lithontriptic: in such cases, from ten to twenty or thirty drops may be given thrice daily in milk, or in sweetened barley-water; or, if the case require it, in any proper bitter infusion, such as cold chamomile tea, or compound infusion of gentian.

Large doses of caustic potassa have been tried without success in *tic douloureux*.

Diluted solution of potassa, in the proportion, for instance, of two drachms of *liquor potassæ* to eight ounces of rose water, is a celebrated remedy for the prevention of venereal contagion. Soap and water, however, is equally effective, and less liable to be misused.

### *Liquor Potassæ Subcarbonatis.*

R Potassæ Subcarbonatis libram,  
 Aquæ] destillatæ fluiduncias duodecim;  
 Ligua Potassæ Subcarbonatem in  
 Aquâ, et per chartam cola.

### *Solution of Subcarbonate of Potassa.*

Take of Subcarbonate of Potassa, a pound,  
 Distilled water, twelve fluid-ounces.  
 Dissolve the Subcarbonate of Potassa in the Water, and filter the solution through paper.

This is a convenient form of subcarbonate of potassa for internal administration, but it has been almost superseded by the carbonate of potassa, in consequence of its nauseous flavour. From ten minims to a drachm may be given for a dose, as an antacid and lithontriptic, and barley-water is a good vehicle for it: it is also used in the preparation of extemporaneous soaps, as in the following formula, which is often effectual in allaying uric irritation:—



R Olei Amygdalæ f ʒj.  
 Liquor. Potassæ Subcarbon. f ʒss.  
 Aquæ Menthæ,  
 ——— Destillat. aa f ʒvj.  
 M. ft. haustus bis die sumendus.

Where a course of alkaline remedies is rendered necessary by the excess of uric acid in the urine, the carbonates of soda will generally be found preferable to those of potassa; but there are cases in which the latter are most effectual, and in which a decided advantage is gained by substituting potassa for soda, so that the circumstance of a patient having used soda without much benefit, should not always prevent the trial of potassa.

### *Potassa cum Calce.*

R Liquoris Potassæ octarios tres,  
 Calcis recentis libram;  
 Decoque Liquorem Potassæ ad octarium; dein adjice Calcem, affusâ aquâ resolutam, et diligenter misce.

### *Potassa with Lime.*

Take of Solution of potassa, three pints,  
 Fresh Lime, a pound;

Boil down the Solution of Potassa to one pint, then add the Lime, previously slaked by the addition of water, and mix them thoroughly together.

Pure potassa is a very unmanageable escharotic in consequence of the facility with which it deliquesces, and the object of the above formula is to obviate this, and probably, at the same time, to render it milder in its operation: the “potassa cum calce” is, however, a very inconvenient application, and one which is rarely employed. It should be preserved out of the contact of air.

### *Potassa Fusa.*

R Liquoris Potassa congiūm;  
 Aquam in vase ferreo nitido ad ignem consume, donec, ebullitione finitâ, Potassa liquefiat: hanc super laminam ferream effunde in formas idoneas.

### *Fused Potassa.*

Take of Solution of Potassa, a gallon;

Evaporate the Water in a clean iron vessel over the fire, until the ebullition ceases, and the Potassa liquefies; pour it out upon an iron plate, in pieces of proper forms.

The most convenient form of this preparation, is that of cylinders or sticks, and thus it is usually found in commerce, having been cast in proper moulds. As above obtained, *potassa fusa* is an impure hydrated oxide of potassium. It

may be to a great extent purified by digesting it in alcohol, pouring off the alcoholic solution from the remaining insoluble impurities, evaporating it to dryness, and afterwards fusing the residue at a red heat in a crucible or basin of pure silver. It is then obtained in the form of a grey brittle substance, composed of—

|   |                           |        |       |    |       |            |
|---|---------------------------|--------|-------|----|-------|------------|
| 1 | proportional of Potassium | ....   | =     | 40 | ..... | 70.2       |
| 1 | —————                     | Oxygen | ..... | =  | 8     | ..... 14.0 |
| 1 | —————                     | Water  | ..... | =  | 9     | ..... 15.8 |
|   |                           |        |       |    | <hr/> | <hr/>      |
|   |                           |        |       |    | 57    | 100        |

The number 48, therefore, is the equivalent of dry protoxide of potassium. There is also a peroxide of potassium composed of—

|   |                           |        |       |                   |
|---|---------------------------|--------|-------|-------------------|
| 1 | proportional of Potassium | .....  | =     | 40                |
| 3 | —————                     | Oxygen | ..... | $8 \times 3 = 24$ |
|   |                           |        |       | <hr/>             |
|   |                           |        |       | 64                |

which, when put into water, loses oxygen, and reverts to the state of protoxide; a portion of this peroxide is generally contained in the fused potassa of commerce, which, in that case, evolves oxygen when put into water.

Fused potassa is commonly of a dingy grey or green colour. Exposed to air, it absorbs water and carbonic acid, and rapidly deliquesces. It is soluble in about its own weight of water, and in consequence of containing a portion of the peroxide of potassium, it evolves oxygen gas during its solution. It is extremely corrosive, and when applied to the skin or flesh, it kills the part and then combines with it, forming a kind of soapy compound; hence its employment in surgery as a powerful caustic.

For internal use it is prescribed in solution under the more convenient form of *liquor potassæ*.

### *Potassæ Acetas.*

R Potassæ Subcarbonatis libram,  
 Acidi Acetici fortioris octarios  
 duos,  
 Aquæ destillatæ ferventis octarios  
 duos;  
 Acidum cum Aquâ priûs commixtum  
 Potassæ Subcarbonati adjice, donec

### *Acetate of Potassa.*

Take of Subcarbonate of Potassa, a  
 pound,  
 Strong Acetic Acid, two pints,  
 Boiling distilled Water, two  
 pints;  
 Having first mixed the Acid and  
 Water, add it to the Subcarbonate of



bullulæ non ampliùs excitentur, et cola. Liquorem primò in balneo aquoso consume donec cessaverit ebullitio. Dein calori gradatim aucto expone, et iterum consume donec pellicula supernatet; pelliculam ablatam super chartam bibulam exsicca. Iterum et sæpiùs consumatur liquor, et pelliculam eodem modo aufer et exsicca.

Potassa, till it ceases to excite effervescence, and filter; evaporate the liquor in a water-bath until ebullition ceases. Then expose it to a heat gradually increased, and again evaporate until a pellicle appears on the surface; remove this pellicle, and dry it on bibulous paper. Continue the evaporation of the liquor, and remove and dry the pellicles in the same manner.

This is the *arcanum tartari*, *sal diureticum*, *tartarus regeneratus*, and *sal essentielle vini*, of the older pharmaceutical writers. There is some difficulty in obtaining acetate of potassa white, and the variations in the formulæ of the different Pharmacopœiæ seem chiefly directed to this object. In the above process the alkaline carbonate is decomposed by the acetic acid, and the solution of the acetate thus obtained carefully evaporated till pellicles begin to form upon it; these swell up, and may be conveniently removed by a skimmer, and dried in a moderate heat upon bibulous paper. The salt thus procured is white, and in the form of light spongy masses.

As it generally occurs in commerce it is flaky or lamellar, having been fused and slowly cooled, hence the term *terra foliata tartari* formerly applied to it. It has a pungent saline taste, diffusing a peculiar warmth over the palate; is uncrySTALLISABLE, deliquescent, and very soluble in water and alcohol; the former taking up its own weight, and the latter about half its weight of the foliated salt. By exposure to a red heat it is resolved into carbonate of potassa, in consequence of the decomposition of the acetic acid at that temperature. It consists of—

|                                     |          |       |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| 1 proportional of Acetic Acid ..... | 50 ..... | 51    |
| 1 ————— Potassa .....               | 48 ..... | 49    |
|                                     | <hr/>    | <hr/> |
|                                     | 98       | 100   |

This is an unimportant article, and as it is always administered in solution, it might have been left to extemporaneous prescription. Without adjuncts it is not effective as a diuretic; as a diaphoretic it ranks with citrate of potassa. It is given in doses of from 20 to 60 grains, generally dissolved in some of the aromatic distilled waters or bitter infusions, and assistant to diuretics, as in the following formula. In doses of four to six drachms it is said to be aperient, but as such is never administered:—

R Potassæ Acetatis ʒss,  
 Infusi Quassiaë,  
 Aq. Cinnamomi, aa f ʒvj.  
 Aceti Scillæ,  
 Spiritus Ætheris Nitrici, aa f ʒss.  
 M. fiat haustus ter in die capiendus.

### *Potassæ Carbonas.*

R Liquoris Potassæ Subcarbonatis  
 congium;

Acidum carbonicum per Liquorem Potassæ subcarbonatis in vase idoneo transmittite ad plenam saturationem, et cola. Vaporet liquor colatus ut fiant crystalli, cavendo ne calor gradum 120<sup>mum</sup> excedat. Has, effuso liquore, super chartam bibulam exsicca.

Acidum carbonicum facillimè obtinetur e Marmore albo et Acido sulphurico diluto.

### *Carbonate of Potassa.*

Take of Solution of Subcarbonate of Potassa, a gallon;

Put the Solution of Subcarbonate of Potassa into a convenient vessel; pass a current of carbonic acid through it until it is completely saturated, and strain it. Let the strained solution be evaporated, so that crystals may form, taking care that its temperature does not exceed 120°. Having poured off the solution, dry the crystals on bibulous paper.

Carbonic Acid, may be easily obtained from white Marble and diluted sulphuric Acid.

These directions for the preparation of carbonate of potassa (properly *bicarbonate*) are a considerable improvement upon the process of the former Pharmacopœia, in which the carbonic acid was inconveniently and expensively derived from carbonate of ammonia. Different modifications of apparatus are employed for the saturation of the alkaline solution; perhaps the simplest consists in two air-tight vessels of cast iron, in one of which the carbonic acid is generated by the action of dilute sulphuric acid upon finely pounded marble, and conveyed by a tube into the solution of the subcarbonate contained in the other vessel. Both these vessels should be fitted with agitators; the one for stirring the marble and acid, and the other for keeping the alkaline solution in motion whilst absorbing the carbonic acid.

By some oversight the College has directed too strong a solution of subcarbonate, the *liquor potassæ subcarbonatis* of the Pharmacopœia requiring to be diluted with about four parts of water; otherwise sesquicarbonate and bicarbonate of potassa being much less soluble in water than the carbonate (subcarbonate of the Pharmacopœia), those salts are inconveniently precipitated during the process.



A pound of subcarbonate of potassa dissolved in five pounds of water, will require the carbonic acid of about half a pound of powdered marble evolved by half a pound of sulphuric acid diluted with five times its weight of water. In adopting these proportions it is assumed that there is very little loss of carbonic acid.

Bicarbonate of potassa has a slightly alkaline taste and acts feebly upon vegetable colours; it is permanent in the air, and soluble in about four parts of water at 60°. When this solution is boiled, one-fourth of the whole of the carbonic acid in the salt is dissipated, and a compound of carbonic acid and potassa, composed of one proportional of potassa and one and a half of carbonic acid, remains in solution, to which the term *sesquicarbonate of potassa* may be applied: hence the requisite caution as to temperature in evaporating the solution so as to obtain crystals. The composition of the bicarbonate is as its name imports, two proportionals of carbonic acid and one of potassa, but the crystals include one proportional of water, and are, therefore, composed as follows:—

|   |                                     |        |     |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| 2 | proportionals of Carbonic Acid..... | 22×2 = | 44  |
| 1 | ————— Potassa.....                  | =      | 48  |
| 1 | ————— Water .....                   | =      | 9   |
|   |                                     |        | 101 |

This salt is used in medicine as an antacid in preference to the subcarbonate, in consequence of its less nauseous taste, and of its agreeing better with the stomach, so that it may be longer persevered in, and administered, if requisite, in larger doses. It is very efficacious in correcting that state of the secretion of urine attended by excess of uric acid. Where there is considerable acidity upon the stomach the evolution of carbonic acid is sometimes an objection to it, but this rarely occurs. It may be administered in doses of from twenty to forty grains dissolved in any aromatic water, or mild bitter infusion. 2 drachms have been taken three times daily, for two months, without any bad effect; in these large doses it generally proves evidently diuretic, and sometimes nauseates. When it occasions a white deposit in, or film upon the urine, the dose should be diminished or discontinued, till that effect ceases. Like other alkaline remedies, this is merely a palliative in that kind of dyspepsia which is attended by the abundant production of acid in the stomach; in such cases it should be combined with bitters. The following are formulæ for its exhibition:—

In nephritic cases;—

R Potassæ Carbonatis, gr. xv.  
Mistur. Amygdalæ f ʒjss.  
Tinct. Cardam. compos, f ʒss.  
M. fiat haustus ter die sumendus.

In acid dyspepsia;—

R Potassæ Carbonatis ʒj.  
Infus. Gentianæ compos.  
Aquæ Pimentæ, āā f ʒvj.  
Tinctur. Rhei f ʒj.  
M. fiat haustus meridiæ et horâ somni sumendus.

### *Potassæ Subcarbonas.*

### *Subcarbonate of Potassa.*

R Potassæ impuræ contritæ (libras tres,  
Aquæ ferventis octarios tres cum semisse;

Liqua Potassam in Aqua, et cola; tum in vas ferreum nitidum effunde, et Aquam lento igne consume, ut spissescat Liquor; dein, igne subducto, spathâ ferreâ assiduè move, donec Sal in grana parvula abeat.

Potassæ Subcarbonas præparari potest, eodem modo, ex Tartaro, quod priùs ustum fuerit, donec cinerei sit coloris.

Take of impure Potassa, bruised, three pounds,  
Boiling Water, three pints and a half;

Dissolve the Potassa in the Water, and filter; then pour the solution into a clean iron vessel, and evaporate over a gentle fire, until the liquor becomes thick; then, having removed it from the fire, stir the liquor constantly with an iron spatula until the Salt passes into a granular form.

Subcarbonate of Potassa may be prepared in the same manner from Tartar, previously burned until it becomes ash-coloured.

The salt intended to result from the above process, consists, in its dry state, of—

|                                 |   |          |       |
|---------------------------------|---|----------|-------|
| 1 proportional of Potassa ..... | = | 48 ..... | 68·5  |
| 1 ————— Carbonic Acid ..        | = | 22 ..... | 31·5  |
|                                 |   | <hr/>    | <hr/> |
|                                 |   | 70       | 100   |

Notwithstanding its alkaline properties, therefore, it ought to be termed *carbonate* of potassa.

When impure potassa, or pearlash, is acted upon by boiling water, other saline substances are apt to be taken up along with the subcarbonate; a preferable process, therefore, as above suggested (p. 175), consists in pouring upon it its weight of cold water, and after a few hours filtering off the



solution through a clean linen bag; in this way, supposing the pearlash to be of ordinary composition and purity, little else than the subcarbonate will be left upon evaporation, and at all events the salt obtained will be sufficiently pure for medical use. Where a perfectly pure subcarbonate of potassa is required for any particular purpose, it may be best obtained by exposing the crystallised bicarbonate to a red heat.

Subcarbonate of potassa as it is generally found in the shops, is in the form of a white granular powder, very deliquescent, nauseously alkaline to the taste, and acting upon vegetable coloured infusions in the manner of the pure alkali; exposed to a dull red heat it loses from 10 to 15 per cent. of water, but retains its carbonic acid. It is soluble in its own weight of water at 60°, and is insoluble in alcohol. Its principal use is in the preparation of saline draughts, twenty grains saturating about half a fluidounce of lemon juice; and in the formation of the *liquor potassæ subcarbonatis*.

### *Potassæ Sulphas.*

R Salis qui restat post destillationem  
Acidi nitrici libras duas,

Aquæ ferventis congios duos;

Misce, ut liquetur Sal; tum adjice  
Potassæ Subcarbonatis quod satis sit  
ad Acidum saturandum. Dein coque,  
donec pellicula supernatet, et, ubi cola-  
veris, sepone, ut fiant crystalli. Has,  
effuso liquore, super chartam bibulam  
exsicca.

### *Sulphate of Potassa.*

Take of the Salt which remains after  
the distillation of nitric  
Acid, two pounds,  
Boiling Water, two gallons;

Mix, so that the Salt may be dis-  
solved, and add as much Subcar-  
bonate of Potassa as may be sufficient  
to saturate the Acid. Then boil the  
solution until a pellicle forms upon  
its surface, and after straining it, set  
it by, that crystals may form in it.  
Having poured off the solution, dry  
the crystals upon bibulous paper,

The salt which remains after the distillation of nitric acid is chiefly bisulphate of potassa, and in the above formula the excess of sulphuric acid is directed to be saturated by potassa, so that the whole may be rendered neutral. The composition and uses of this salt have already been pointed out (p. 173). In regard to the above formula, Mr. Phillips remarks, "that the most economical mode of procuring sulphate from bisulphate of potassa, is to saturate the excess of acid with lime, for sulphate of potassa is of less value than subcarbonate;" but this would render the process more troublesome in respect to the separation of the sulphate of lime, and the saving would be trifling.

By the old pharmaceutical writers this salt was designated *arcantum duplicatum*, and *sal de duobus*.

Sulphate of potassa, in consequence of its difficult solubility, is not much prescribed; combined with rhubarb it forms an excellent deobstruent purge for children in doses of from 10 to 30 or 40 grains, with 5 to 10 grains of rhubarb.

### *Potassæ Supersulphas.*

R Salis qui restat post destillationem  
Acidi nitrici libras duas.

Aquæ ferventis octarios quatuor;

Misce ut liquetur Sal, et cola. Dein coque ad dimidium, et sepone, ut fiant crystalli. Has, effuso liquore, super chartam bibulam exsicca.

### *Supersulphate of Potassa.*

Take of the Salt which remains after the distillation of nitric Acid, two pounds,  
Boiling Water, four pints;

Mix, so that the Salt may be dissolved, and filter; then boil down to one half, and set aside that crystals may form. Having poured off the liquor, dry them upon bibulous paper.

In the directions above given for the preparation of nitric acid, two proportionals of sulphuric acid are employed for the decomposition of one proportional of nitrate of potassa; we find accordingly that the salt which remains after the distillation, is a compound of one proportional of potassa and two of sulphuric acid; that is, that it contains, as was first shown by Dr. Wollaston, just twice as much acid as the sulphate, and is properly a bisulphate. The following are its components, independent of water of crystallisation:—

|   |                                    |                    |      |       |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|------|-------|
| 2 | proportionals of Sulphuric Acid .. | $40 \times 2 = 80$ | .... | 62.5  |
| 1 | ————— Potassa.....                 | $= 48$             | .... | 37.5  |
|   |                                    | <hr/>              |      | <hr/> |
|   |                                    | 128                |      | 100   |

The crystals contain between 12 and 13 per cent. of water.

This salt is very sour, and much more soluble than the sulphate; one part requiring only two of water at 60°, and less than an equal weight at 212° for solution. It does not dissolve in alcohol. Exposed to a red heat it loses its excess of acid and is reduced to the state of neutral sulphate.

This salt is scarcely ever used, for in doses sufficient to open the bowels it generally gripes, and is not much more active than the sulphate. Where a sour saline remedy of this description is required, it is easily formed by the addition of dilute sulphuric acid to sulphate of potassa. Sulphate of soda may be given in the same way, but the larger quantity of water contained in the crystals of that salt renders a larger



dose necessary. In dyspepsia attended by a torpid state of bowels and loss of appetite, the following may be given daily at noon :—

R Infus. Rosæ compos. f3xiv.  
 Potassæ Sulphatis ʒij.  
 Tinct. Gentianæ compos. f3j.  
 Acid Sulphur. dilut. minim. xv.  
 M. fiat haustus.

### *Potassæ Tartras.*

R Potassæ Subcarbonatis uncias sedecim,  
 Potassæ Supertartratis libras tres,  
 Aqua ferventis congium ;

Potassæ Subcarbonatem in Aqua liqua ; tum adjice Potassæ Supertartratem in pulverem tritam, donec bullulæ non ampliùs excitentur. Liquorem per chartam cola ; dein coque donec pellicula supernatet, et sepone, ut fiant crystalli. Has, effuso liquore, super chartam bibulam exsicca.

### *Tartrate of Potassa.*

Take of Subcarbonate of Potassa, sixteen ounces,  
 Supertartrate of Potassa, three pounds,  
 Boiling Water, a gallon ;

Dissolve the Subcarbonate of Potassa in the Water ; then gradually add the pulverised Supertartrate of Potassa, until it ceases to excite effervescence. Filter the solution through paper ; then boil it until a pellicle appears upon its surface, and set it by that crystals may form. Having poured off the solution, dry the crystals upon bibulous paper.

In this formula the excess of acid in the bitartrate of potassa is saturated by the potassa of the subcarbonate, so as to form a neutral tartrate of potassa, composed of—

|   |                               |     |       |       |
|---|-------------------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| 1 | proportional of Tartaric Acid | 67  | ..... | 58.25 |
| 1 | ————— Potassa                 | 48  | ..... | 41.75 |
|   |                               | 115 |       | 100   |

The crystallised salt is probably anhydrous ; its taste is bitterish, and strongly saline ; it is somewhat deliquescent, especially as it is usually found in the shops, namely, not crystallised as above directed, but evaporated to dryness and reduced to powder. It is soluble in 2 parts of water at 60° ; it also dissolves in alcohol.

This salt is an effective aperient in doses of from 2 to 6 drachms. It is a good adjunct to senna. With rhubarb and aromatics it also affords a convenient purgative, rapid in its operation, and not liable to gripe. The following are formulæ of this kind :—

- R Infus. Sennæ f ʒx.  
 Potassæ Tartratis ʒij.  
 Tinctur. Sennæ f ʒij.  
 M. ft. haustus aperiens.
- R Pulv. Rhei ʒj.  
 Potassæ Tartratis ʒj.  
 Olei Menthæ pip. gutt. iij.  
 M. fiat pulvis.

The following is Klein's *pulvis lenitivus hypochondriacus* :—

- R Flavedinis Cort. Aurant.  
 Radicis Rhei,  
 Potassæ Tartratis, ʒā ʒss.  
 Olei Cajeput. gutt. iij.  
 M. ft. pulvis pro una dosi.

Tartrate of potassa may be obtained in the process for preparing the tartaric acid (see *Tartaric Acid*). It cannot be given in conjunction with the acids, nearly all of which decompose it, or by abstracting a portion of the potassa convert it into supertartrate. It is the *tartarus tartarisatus* and *tartarus solubilis* of old pharmacy.

## PREPARATIONS OF SODA.

### *Sodæ Carbonas.*

- R Sodæ Subcarbonatis libram,  
 Aquæ destillatæ octarios tres ;

Sodæ Subcarbonatem in Aqua destillata liqua. Dein Acidum carbonicum per liquorem in vase idoneo transmittite ad plenam saturationem, et seponite ut fiant crystalli. Crystallos chartâ bibulâ involutas et compressas exsicca. Consume liquorem reliquum, cavendo ne calor gradum 120<sup>mum</sup> excedat, ut iterum prodeant crystalli. Has eodem modo comprime et exsicca.

### *Carbonate of Soda.*

- Take of Subcarbonate of Soda, a pound,  
 Distilled Water, three pints ;

Dissolve the Subcarbonate of Soda in the distilled Water. Then having put the solution into a proper vessel, pass carbonic Acid into it until the Soda is completely saturated, and set it by that crystals may form. Wrap the crystals in bibulous paper and dry them by pressure. Evaporate the remaining liquor, taking care that the temperature does not exceed 120°, that crystals may again form in it. Press and dry these in the same manner.

When carbonic acid is passed into a solution of subcarbonate of soda the alkaline base combines with an additional proportional of carbonic acid, and small crystals of bicarbonate of soda are formed, which are less soluble in water than the



subcarbonate, and which, exclusive of water of crystallisation, contain—

|   |                            |                    |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | proportional of Soda ..... | = 32               |
| 2 | ———— Carbonic Acid ...     | $22 \times 2 = 44$ |
|   |                            | <hr/> 76           |

When dried, even with the precautions above directed, these crystals effloresce and lose a part of their carbonic acid, so that the salt, as it is usually found in the shops, under the name of *carbonate* of soda, is intermediate between the subcarbonate and bicarbonate. According to Mr. Phillips, it consists of—

|                  |            |                                    |                    |
|------------------|------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Carbonic Acid .. | 39·76 or 3 | proportionals of Carbonic Acid ... | $22 \times 3 = 66$ |
| Soda .....       | 38·55 — 2  | ———— Soda .....                    | $32 \times 2 = 64$ |
| Water .....      | 21·69 — 4  | ———— Water .....                   | $9 \times 4 = 36$  |
|                  | <hr/> 100  |                                    | <hr/> 166          |

Independent therefore of water, it may be regarded as a compound of 1 proportional of carbonate of soda (subcarbonate of the Pharmacopœia) and 1 of bicarbonate of soda; it is, therefore, a *sesquicarbonate* of soda.

In its medical uses this salt corresponds with the subcarbonate, but its taste is less alkaline and unpleasant, and it generally is less disagreeable to the stomach. As a lithontriptic in cases of uric gravel, and as an antacid, it may be given in doses of from 10 to 40 or 50 grains, dissolved in water; its taste is almost entirely covered by excess of carbonic acid as it occurs in soda water, which is an agreeable and effectual form of this remedy; it must, however, be recollected that much of what is sold in London under the name of *soda water*, is merely water highly impregnated with carbonic acid, and this, though an agreeable drink, is of little medical efficacy: by some manufacturers soda water is very faithfully prepared of single, double, and treble strength, containing, in the half pint bottle, half a drachm, one drachm, and one drachm and a half of the crystallised subcarbonate, duly supersaturated with carbonic acid.

The *sodaic powders*, sold as a substitute for soda water, consist of carbonate of soda and tartaric acid; about 30 grains of each being usually put up in separate papers, and directed to be mixed in a half pint tumbler of water: this forms an agreeable effervescing draught, and containing tartrate of soda, it is slightly aperient, but very different in composition and effect from genuine soda water.

The following is a good remedy in common cases of heart-burn; it may be taken in a small wine-glass full of water:—

R Sodæ Carbonatis,  
 Magnesiæ Subcarbonatis,  
 Pulver. Flor. Anthemid. āā gr. x. M.

The other uses of carbonate of soda may be judged of from what is said under the following article, and from the general observations upon the alkaline remedies.

### *Sodæ Subcarbonas.*

### *Subcarbonate of Soda.*

R Sodæ impuræ in pulverem tritæ  
 libram,  
 Aquæ destillatæ ferventis octarios  
 quatuor;

Coque Sodam in Aqua per horam  
 dimidiam, et cola. Hæc vaporet ad  
 octarios duos, et seponatur, ut fiant  
 crystalli. Liquorem superstitem rejice.

Take of impure Soda reduced to powder,  
 a pound,  
 Boiling distilled Water, four  
 pints;

Boil the Soda in the water for half  
 an hour, and strain the solution; let  
 it evaporate to two pints, and be set  
 by, that crystals may form. Throw  
 away the remaining solution.

Subcarbonate of soda may be obtained, as above directed, from barilla, kelp, and other substances containing it in a more or less impure state; it is, however, scarcely ever prepared in the pharmaceutical laboratory, being manufactured upon a large and more economical scale, and to be purchased in the market very pure, and at a comparatively low price: it is sometimes necessary to re-crystallise it for medical use, especially when discoloured by oxide of iron.

Subcarbonate of soda forms large crystals, the primary form of which is, according to Mr. Phillips<sup>1</sup>, an oblique rhombic prism: their solubility and composition, with some other particulars respecting the salt, will be found under the head "Soda Impura," in the list of *Materia Medica*. From the statement there given, it appears to consist of 1 proportional of carbonic acid and 1 of soda, in its anhydrous state; and that the crystals contain 10 proportionals of water: it ought, therefore, to be termed, in strict propriety, *carbonate*, and not *subcarbonate* of soda.

This is a very useful antacid and antilithic remedy; and where it is required to persevere for a long time in the use of alkaline remedies, it appears to agree better with the stomach than the corresponding salt of potassa. About 30 grains may be given twice or thrice a day, in an ounce and a half of almond mixture, where the object is to correct the red sediment of the

<sup>1</sup> Trans. of Pharm. p. 61.



urine ; or in the following draught, where it is accompanied by acidity of the stomach, flatulency, and other dyspeptic symptoms.

R Sodæ Subcarb. ʒj.  
 Infus. Gentianæ compos.  
 Aquæ Pimentæ, ʒā f ʒvj.  
 Tinctur. Cardamomi f ʒj. M.

Like the other alkalies, if given in too large doses, it occasions a film of ammonio-magnesian phosphate, or a deposit of white sand composed of it and of phosphate of lime, in the urine : 2 drachms, taken in the morning upon an empty stomach, in a large cup of tea, produced a sensible effect in the urine voided ten minutes afterwards, and in two hours the urine became milky and alkaline.

Large doses of subcarbonate of soda are said to have been of use in *tic douloureux*, but the remedy is very uncertain. It has gained some confidence in the treatment of scrofula, and has been supposed to confer upon burnt sponge its chief efficacy ; but there, iodine is probably the beneficial agent.

*Sodæ Subcarbonas  
 Exsiccata.*

*Dried Subcarbonate of  
 Soda.*

R Sodæ Subcarbonatis libram ;

Sodæ Subcarbonati, in vase ferreo nitido, calorem ferventem adhibe, donec penitus exsicceetur ; eamque simul spatula ferrea assidue move. Denique in pulverem tere.

Take of Subcarbonate of Soda, a pound ;

Apply a boiling heat to the Subcarbonate of Soda in a clean iron vessel, and stir it constantly with an iron rod until it becomes perfectly dry. Lastly, reduce it to powder.

It appears from the composition of crystallised subcarbonate of soda already given (p. 203), that it contains in that state between 64 and 65 per cent. of water, the whole of which may be expelled at a red heat. In the above process the heat of boiling water is employed to dry it, which occasions a loss of about 25 per cent. upon the salt. In this dried state, subcarbonate of soda is conveniently administered in pills, combined with bitter extracts, in cases of dyspeptic acidity, as in the following formula :—

R Sodæ Subcarbonatis exsiccatae,  
 Extracti Rhei,  
 Extracti Anthemidis, ʒā ʒj.  
 Fiat massa in pilulas xij. dividenda, quarum sumantur quæ bis die.

The following are Dr. Beddoes' lithontriptic pills, at one time much celebrated as a remedy for stone and gravel; and certainly effectual, where they do not disorder the stomach, in preventing the formation of uric sand:—

R Sodæ Subcarbon. exsicc.  
Saponis duri, āā ʒj.  
Misce et divide in pilulas xxiv. sumat iij. vel iv. omni bihorio.

The following is an antacid stomachic powder, frequently taken with advantage at bed-time, to prevent the ill effects of too much meat and drink upon a gouty or dyspeptic habit:—

R Sodæ Subcarb. exsiccāt. gr. x.  
Magnes. Carbon.  
Cretæ Preparatæ, āā ʒj.  
Pulv. Rad. Calumbæ gr. xv.  
Pulv. Cinnamomi gr. v.  
M. fiat pulvis horâ somni sumendus è cyatho aquæ.

Pills containing the common or crystallised, instead of the dried subcarbonate of soda, very soon crack and fall to pieces.

### *Sodæ Sulphas.*

### *Sulphate of Soda.*

R Salis qui restat post distillationem  
Acidi muriatici libras duas,

Aquæ ferventis octarios duos cum  
semisse;

Liqua Salem in Aqua; tum adjice paulatim Sodæ Subcarbonatis quod satis sit ad Acidum saturandum. Decoque, donec pellicula appareat, et, ubi colaveris, sepone, ut fiant crystalli. Has, effuso liquore, super chartam bibulam exsicca.

Take of the Salt which remains after the distillation of muriatic Acid, two pounds,  
Boiling Water, two pints and a half;

Dissolve the Salt in the Water, then add gradually as much Subcarbonate of Soda as may be required to saturate the Acid; evaporate the solution until a pellicle appears upon its surface, filter it, and set it by that crystals may form. Having poured off the solution, dry the crystals upon bibulous paper.

It has already been stated that crystallised sulphate of soda is a compound of—

|    |                                      |                          |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1  | proportional of Sulphuric Acid ..... | = 40                     |
| 1  | ————— Soda .....                     | = 32                     |
| 10 | ————— Water .....                    | 9 × 10 = 90 <sup>1</sup> |

<sup>1</sup> A saturated solution of sulphate of soda, corked up in an air-tight phial, very gradually deposits crystals, at first perfectly transparent, but which, when the supernatant solution crystallises, as it does on exposure to air, become opaque.



and the theory of its formation, by the action of sulphuric acid upon common salt, has been explained under the head "Muriatic Acid." In the dose of six or eight drachms, this salt is an efficient aperient, but its taste is nauseously saline; and though frequently used as a domestic medicine, it has been superseded by sulphate of magnesia in practice.

### *Soda Tartarizata.*

R Sodæ Subcarbonatis uncias viginti,  
Potassæ Supertartratis contritæ libras duas,  
Aquæ ferventis octarios decem;

Sodæ Subcarbonatem in Aqua liqua, et adjice paulatim Potassæ Supertartratem. Liquorem per chartam cola; tum coque, donec pellicula supernatet, et sepone, ut fiant crystalli. Has, effuso liquore, super chartam bibulam exsicca.

### *Tartarized Soda.*

Take of Subcarbonate of Soda, twenty ounces,  
Supertartrate of Potassa in powder, two pounds,  
Boiling Water, ten pints;

Dissolve the Subcarbonate of Soda in the Water, and add gradually the Supertartrate of Potassa; filter the solution through paper; then evaporate it until a pellicle forms upon its surface, and set it by that crystals may form. Having poured off the solution, dry the crystals upon bibulous paper.

This is a triple salt of tartaric acid, soda, and potassa, composed, according to Vauquelin, of—

54 Tartrate of Potassa.

46 Tartrate of Soda.

---

100

These proportions closely correspond with its theoretical composition, which, independent of water of crystallisation, should be—

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1 proportional of Tartrate of Potassa..... | = 115     |
| 1 ————— Tartrate of Soda.....              | = 99      |
|  | <hr/> 214 |

The crystallised salt includes ten proportionals of water. It is the *sal rupellense* and *sal Seignettii* of old Pharmacopœiæ, having been first introduced as an aperient, in doses of from half an ounce to an ounce, by M. de Seignette, a surgeon at Rochelle, who for a long time kept its composition

These crystals are extremely hard; they contain, according to Mr. Faraday, equal weights of dry sulphate and of water, or—

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1 proportional of dry Sulphate of Soda ..... | = 72       |
| 8 ————— Water .....                          | 9 × 8 = 72 |
|  | <hr/> 144  |

secret. It forms large crystals, which are complex modifications of a primary rhombic prism. What has been said elsewhere of the use of the saline purgatives, applies to this; it is less disagreeable, but also less effective than sulphate of magnesia. It dissolves in rather less than 5 parts of water at 60°, and may be administered in any of the usual vehicles; not, however, without a partial decomposition in those containing the free mineral acids, as infusion of roses, &c. It may be prescribed, not inelegantly, in almond emulsion; and, if sufficiently diluted, generally proves mildly aperient in doses below half an ounce.

R Sodæ Tartarizatæ Pulver. ℥vj.

Misturæ Amygdalæ f ℥vss.

Spiritûs Myristicæ f ℥ss.

M. sumat tertiam partem secundâ quâque horâ.

This salt enters into the composition of the effervescent aperient commonly sold under the name of *Seidlitz powders*. "These consist of two different powders; the one, contained in a white paper, consists of ℥ij. of *tartarised soda* and ʒij. of *carbonate of soda*; that in the blue paper, of xxxv. grains of *tartaric acid*. The contents of the white paper are to be dissolved in half a pint of spring water, to which those of the blue paper are to be added: the draught is to be taken in a state of effervescence. The acid being in excess, renders it more grateful, and no less efficacious as a purgative<sup>1</sup>."

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<sup>1</sup> Paris Pharmacologia,



## EARTHS AND THEIR SALTS.

### PREPARATIONS OF ALUMINA.

#### *Alumen Exsiccatum.*

Alumen in vase fictili ad ignem liquescat; tum augeatur ignis, donec ebullitio cessaverit.

#### *Dried Alum.*

Expose Alum in an earthen vessel to the fire so that it may liquefy, and let the heat be continued until the ebullition ceases.

By reference to the article "Alumen" in the *Materia Medica*, it will be found that alum, in its usual state, contains nearly half its weight of water of crystallisation: by the above process the greater part of this is dissipated, and the salt rendered more active as an escharotic, provided care be taken to exhale none of its acid, which frequently is the case, by the application of too intense heat.—(See page 22.)

#### *Liquor Aluminis Compositus.*

℞ Aluminis,  
Zinci Sulphatis, singulorum unciam  
dimidiam,  
Aquæ ferventis octarios duos;  
Alumen et Zinci Sulphatem in Aqua  
simul liqua; dein per chartam cola.

#### *Compound Solution of Alum.*

Take of Alum,  
Sulphate of Zinc, of each half  
an ounce,  
Boiling Water, two pints;  
Dissolve the Alum and the Sulphate  
of Zinc in the Water; then filter  
through paper.

This is a powerfully astringent solution, formerly more used than at present as an injection in gleet and fluor albus, for which purposes it requires due dilution. It furnishes a good collyrium in some cases of ophthalmia, diluted with rose or elder-flower water; but it must also be recollected that much mischief frequently results from the injudicious use of corrugating eye-washes.

A small proportion of mucilage of gum arabic is often a good addition to astringent injections; it retains them longer upon the parts: upon this principle the following may be used for the cure of gleet:—

R Liquoris Aluminis compositi f 3vj.  
 Aquæ destillatæ f 3vjss.  
 Mucilaginis Arabici 3ss. M.

The following collyrium may be employed in ophthalmia, after local bleeding has been properly resorted to:—

R Liq. Alum. compos. f 3ss.  
 Aquæ Rosæ f 3vss. M. Misce.

## PREPARATIONS OF LIME.

### *Calx.*

R Marmoris albi libram ;

In frustula contunde, et in crucibulo igne acerrimo ure per horam, vel donec Acidum carbonicum penitus expulsum fuerit, adeò ut Acidum aceticum dilutum adjectum nullas bullulas excitet.

### *Lime.*

Take of white Marble, a pound ;

Break it into small fragments, and heat them in a crucible in a very strong fire for an hour, or until the carbonic Acid is completely expelled, so that on the addition of diluted acetic Acid no effervescence may be excited.

### *Calx è Testis.*

Eodem modo Calx fiat etiam è Testis.

### *Lime from Shells.*

By the same method Lime may also be prepared from Shells.

Two sources of pure lime are unnecessarily resorted to in the above formulæ from the Pharmacopœia ; the first is quite sufficient ; but for all general purposes the common lime of the kiln is pure enough for pharmaceutical use, and is generally employed, to the exclusion of the above varieties : this, therefore, might have had a place in the Materia Medica. Pure carbonate of lime, white marble, for instance, loses about 44 per cent. of carbonic acid, when duly subjected to heat<sup>1</sup>, leaving 56 of lime ; it is therefore a compound of—

|                                       |   |    |
|---------------------------------------|---|----|
| 1 proportional of Carbonic Acid ..... | = | 22 |
| 1 ————— Lime .....                    | = | 28 |
|                                       |   | —  |
|                                       |   | 50 |

But lime is itself a metallic oxide, composed of—

|                                 |   |    |
|---------------------------------|---|----|
| 1 proportional of Calcium ..... | = | 20 |
| 1 ————— Oxygen .....            | = | 8  |
|                                 |   | —  |
|                                 |   | 28 |

<sup>1</sup> Marble sustains a high heat in close vessels without loss of carbonic acid ; air and aqueous vapour facilitate its escape.



and carbonic acid consists of—

|   |                              |   |       |
|---|------------------------------|---|-------|
| 1 | proportional of Carbon ..... | = | 6     |
| 2 | ————— Oxygen .....           | = | 16    |
|   |                              |   | <hr/> |
|   |                              |   | 22    |

the ultimate elements, therefore, of carbonate of lime are—

|   |                               |                |       |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| 1 | proportional of Calcium ..... | =              | 20    |
| 1 | ————— Carbon .....            | =              | 6     |
| 3 | ————— Oxygen .....            | $8 \times 3 =$ | 24    |
|   |                               |                | <hr/> |
|   |                               |                | 50    |

Lime has an acrid alkaline taste, and acts powerfully on vegetable colours in the manner of the alkalies. Exposed freely to air, it absorbs water and carbonic acid, and is ultimately converted into carbonate of lime. Sprinkled with water, it rapidly absorbs and consolidates a considerable portion of that fluid, evolving much heat, and crumbling down into a white powder, which is a *hydrate of lime*, or, as it is commonly called, *slaked lime*. In this process the lime combines with about a third of its weight of water, and the compound contains—

|   |                            |   |       |      |       |
|---|----------------------------|---|-------|------|-------|
| 1 | proportional of Lime ..... | = | 28    | .... | 75·75 |
| 1 | ————— Water .....          | = | 9     | .... | 24·25 |
|   |                            |   | <hr/> |      | <hr/> |
|   |                            |   | 37    |      | 100   |

Lime is not administered internally, but it is used in a variety of pharmaceutical preparations.

### *Liquor Calcis.*

R Calcis selibram,  
 Aquæ destillatæ octarios duodecim;  
 Calci Aquam affunde, et simul agita;  
 tum protinus vas contege, et sepone  
 per horas tres; dein Liquorem cum  
 Calce superstite in vasis vitreis obturatis  
 serva, et, ubi utendum est, ex limpido  
 Liquore sume.

### *Lime Water.*

Take of Limé, half a pound,  
 Distilled Water, twelve pints;  
 Pour the Water upon the Lime and  
 shake them together; then cover the  
 vessel immediately, and set it aside  
 for three hours; lastly, keep the so-  
 lution upon the remaining Lime in  
 stopped glass vessels, and when it is  
 to be used take the clear solution.

There is a peculiarity in respect to the solubility of lime not easily accounted for, which is, that it is less soluble in hot than in cold water: accordingly, when a cold saturated aqueous solution of lime is boiled, it becomes turbid and

hydrated lime is deposited in very minute granular crystals. Mr. R. Phillips, to whom we are indebted for this fact, found<sup>1</sup> that—

|                    |      |           |      |                 |
|--------------------|------|-----------|------|-----------------|
| A pint of Water at | 32°  | dissolves | 11·0 | grains of Lime. |
| —————              | 60°  | —————     | 9·7  | —————           |
| —————              | 212° | —————     | 5·6  | —————           |

so that water at 32° dissolves very nearly twice as much lime as at 212°.

Lime-water, though it holds so little of the earth in solution, is strongly alkaline to the taste and to the test of vegetable colours; it absorbs carbonic acid from the air, and the lime gradually separates in the state of carbonate, in successive pellicles; so that it should be kept in well-corked vessels.

Lime-water has been exhibited in a variety of disorders, among which acid dyspepsia, and its attendant diarrhœa, gravel, worms, and certain cutaneous affections, might be enumerated; it is, however, an inconvenient and ineffective form of alkaline medicine, and is not entitled, in any of the above cases, to much consideration.

### *Calcis Murias.*

R Salis qui restat post sublimationem  
Ammoniæ Subcarbonatis libras  
duas,

Aquæ octarium;

Misce et per chartam cola; vaporet  
liquor donec Sal exsiccet. Hunc in  
vase accuratè obturato serva.

### *Muriate of Lime.*

Take of the Salt which remains after  
the sublimation of Subcar-  
bonate of Ammonia, two  
pounds,

Water, a pint;

Mix and filter through paper.  
Evaporate the solution until the Salt  
becomes dry. Keep it in a vessel well  
stopped.

What is here termed *muriate of lime* is, in fact, a *chloride of calcium*, as may be seen by reference to the explanatory diagram under the article “Subcarbonate of Ammonia,” page 253. In the above process, the residue of the sublimation of subcarbonate of ammonia is treated with distilled water, and the solution being evaporated to dryness, furnishes a grey, fusible, deliquescent, and very soluble substance, which in its dry state consists of—

|   |                         |       |   |    |      |       |
|---|-------------------------|-------|---|----|------|-------|
| 1 | proportional of Calcium | ..... | = | 20 | .... | 35·65 |
| 1 | ————— Chlorine          | ....  | = | 36 | .... | 64·35 |
|   |                         |       |   | 56 |      | 100   |

<sup>1</sup> Trans. Pharm. p. 72.



It has a pungent bitter saline taste, and is rarely employed except in solution, as in the next article.

It is usual in the pharmaceutical laboratory to prepare the *calcis murias* by saturating muriatic acid with carbonate of lime, filtering the solution, evaporating it to dryness, and fusing the dry residue, so that it may be poured out upon a copper plate, and when hard broken into pieces. It must be kept in well-closed phials.

By exposing a strong solution of chloride of calcium to the temperature of  $32^{\circ}$ , it forms prismatic crystals, containing, according to Mr. Phillips <sup>1</sup>.—

|                                       |       |              |    |             |            |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------|----|-------------|------------|
| 1 proportional of Chloride of Calcium | ..... | =            | 56 | ....        | 51         |
| 6 ————— Water                         | ..... | $9 \times 6$ | =  | 54          | .... 49    |
|                                       |       |              |    | <u>110.</u> | <u>100</u> |

Powdered chloride of calcium, mixed with snow, produces a freezing mixture capable of lowering the thermometer from  $+32^{\circ}$  to  $-50^{\circ}$ .

In scrofula, this compound has been administered in the form of pill with extract of hemlock, as follows :—

R Calcis Muriatis gr. ij.  
 Extracti Conii gr. iv.  
 Fiant pilulæ duæ bis vel ter quotidie sumendæ.

### *Liquor Calcis Muriatis.*

### *Solution of Muriate of Lime.*

R Calcis Muriatis uncias duas,  
 Aquæ destillatæ fluiduncias tres;

Calcis Muriatem in Aqua liqua;  
 tum per chartam cola.

Take of Muriate of Lime, two ounces,  
 Distilled Water, three fluid-  
 ounces;

Dissolve the Muriate of Lime in the  
 Water; then filter through paper.

Muriate of lime and muriate of baryta have both had their advocates as remedies in scrofula; the former is less mischievous, and I believe equally effective with the latter; but it is extremely doubtful whether it has in any instance proved decidedly beneficial. Mr. A. T. Thomson recommends it in bronchocele, and says that he has witnessed more benefit from its continued use in the varied forms of scrofula than from any other remedy. The above solution may be given in the dose of from 10 to 20 minims, twice or thrice a day, to

<sup>1</sup> Ann. of Phil. vol. vi. p. 343.

children, and of half a drachm to 2 drachms to adults, diluted with about an ounce or an ounce and a half of any aromatic water. It may be conjoined with chalybeates, bitters, and other tonics, or with hemlock and alteratives. If the dose be too large, it nauseates, and even produces vomiting, an effect which may be mitigated by combining with it a little opium. The following are formulæ for its use :—

R Liquoris Calcis Muriatis f 3ss.  
 Aquæ Pimentæ f 3x.  
 Syrupi Croci,  
 Spiritûs Carui, aa f 3ss.  
 Fiat haustus sextâ quâque horâ sumendus.

Or the following, where it nauseates :—

R Liquoris Calcis Muriatis f 3ss.  
 Tincturæ Opii ℥v.  
 Infusi Aurantii compos. f 3xj.  
 Tincturæ Cardamomi compos. f 5j.  
 M. fiat haustus ter in die capiendus.

### *Creta Præparata.*

### *Prepared Chalk.*

R Cretæ libram ;

Take of Chalk, a pound ;

Cretæ adjice Aquæ paululum, et tere, ut fiat pulvis subtilis. Hunc in vas amplum Aquâ plenum conjice ; tum agita, et, brevi morâ interpositâ, in vas aliud Aquam adhuc turbidam supernatantem trans mitte, et se pone, ut subsidat pulvis ; denique effusâ Aquâ, pulverem exsicca.

Add a little Water to the Chalk, and rub it into a fine powder. Throw this into a large vessel full of water, then stir it, and after a short interval decant the supernatant turbid water into another vessel, and set it by that the powder may subside ; lastly, having poured off the water, dry the powder.

The principal object of the above process is to free the chalk from any soluble matter which it may accidentally contain, and to reduce it to the state of impalpable powder. Pure carbonate of lime consists, as before mentioned, of—

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| 1 proportional of Lime . . . . . | = 28     |
| 1 ————— Carbonic Acid . . . . .  | = 22     |
|                                  | <hr/> 50 |

It is insipid, and very nearly insoluble in water, except carbonic acid be present, when it is readily taken up.

The principal use of prepared chalk is, as has already been stated (p. 89), as an antacid or absorbent, in doses of from



10 to 40 or 50 grains. The *mistura cretæ* may supersede most other formulæ for its exhibition.

## PREPARATIONS OF MAGNESIA.

### *Magnesia.*

R *Magnesia* Subcarbonatis uncias  
quatuor ;

Ignē acerrimo ure per horas duas,  
vel donec Acidum aceticum dilutum  
instillatum nullas bullulas excitet.

### *Magnesia.*

Take of Subcarbonate of Magnesia,  
four ounces.

Heat it intensely for two hours, or  
until diluted acetic Acid, dropped  
upon it, excites no effervescence.

The loss of weight sustained in the above process by the subcarbonate of magnesia is extremely variable ; it includes carbonic acid and water, and generally amounts to between 50 and 60 per cent. of which from 15 to 20 per cent. is water, and the remainder carbonic acid. The medicinal uses of magnesia, and of its subcarbonate, have been mentioned above (p. 139).

The researches of Sir H. Davy have shown, that magnesia, like the other alkaline earths, is a metallic oxide, containing probably about 40 per cent. of oxygen. The equivalent number of the earth is 20, and it is considered as a compound of—

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 1 \text{ proportional of Magnesium} & \dots\dots\dots & = 12 \\ 1 \text{ ————— Oxygen} & \dots\dots\dots & = 8 \\ & & \hline & & 20 \end{array}$$

We are directed, in the above formula, to heat the subcarbonate very intensely ; but a red heat is quite sufficient to expel the carbonic acid and water, and if the heat be raised to whiteness, the contents of the crucible are apt to become lumpy. Great care should be taken that no particles of dust or cinders fall into the crucible ; and it is generally right to pass the magnesia through a fine sieve after its calcination. Attention should also be paid to the original purity of the subcarbonate, especially to its freedom from lime ; which it sometimes contains in small quantities, and which gives an acrimony and alkaline flavour to the magnesia not naturally belonging to it.

Magnesia may be called insoluble in water ; when moistened upon turmeric paper it slightly reddens it ; but water filtered through magnesia has no effect upon the most delicate vegetable colours.

Magnesia absorbs moisture and carbonic acid very slowly, when long exposed to the atmosphere.

### *Magnesia Subcarbonas. Subcarbonate of Magnesia.*

R Magnesiæ Sulphatis libram,  
Potassæ Subcarbonatis uncias novem,  
Aquæ congios tres;

Potassæ Subcarbonatem in Aquæ octariis tribus, Magnesiæ Sulphatem in Aquæ octariis quinque, separatim liqua, et cola; dein Liquori Magnesiæ Sulphatis reliquam Aquam adjice, et coque; eique, dum ebullit, liquorem priorem admisce, spathâ assidue movens; tum per linteam cola; denique pulverem, affusâ sæpius aquâ fervente, ablue, et calore gradûs 200<sup>mi</sup> super chartam bibulam exsicca.

Take of Sulphate of Magnesia a pound,  
Subcarbonate of Potassa nine ounces,  
Water, three gallons;

Dissolve separately the Subcarbonate of Potassa in three pints of the Water, and the Sulphate of Magnesia in five pints of the Water, and filter; then add the remaining Water to the Solution of Sulphate of Magnesia, and boil, and while it is boiling mix the former solution with it, stirring them thoroughly with a spatula; then strain through linen; lastly, wash the powder repeatedly with boiling water, and dry it at a temperature of 200°, upon bibulous paper.

Dry sulphate of magnesia is a compound of—

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 1 \text{ proportional of Magnesia} & \dots\dots\dots & = 20 \\ 1 \text{ ————— Sulphuric Acid} & \dots\dots & = 40 \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{rcl} 1 & \dots\dots\dots & = 20 \\ 1 & \dots\dots & = 40 \end{array}} \right\} = 60$$

and the salt in *crystals*, as it usually occurs, contains—

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 1 \text{ proportional of dry Sulphate} & \dots\dots\dots & = 60 \\ 7 \text{ ————— Water} & \dots\dots\dots & 9 \times 7 = 63 \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{rcl} 1 & \dots\dots\dots & = 60 \\ 7 & \dots\dots\dots & = 63 \end{array}} \right\} = 123$$

Sulphate of magnesia is usually prepared by the wholesale manufacturer either from sea water or from magnesian limestone; it has, therefore, a place in the *Materia Medica*, where its uses are pointed out (p. 141). It is generally in minute indeterminate crystals, but by slowly evaporating its solution, it may easily be obtained in regular quadrangular prisms, terminated by transverse dihedral summits, and not affected by exposure to the atmosphere. They are soluble in their own weight of water at 60°, and in about three-fourths their weight at 212°.

In the formula at the head of this article, sulphate of magnesia is decomposed by subcarbonate of potassa for the production of subcarbonate of magnesia. The process is not merely a simple case of double decomposition, for if so, carbonate of magnesia and sulphate of potassa should alone



result; whereas the precipitate is deficient in the due proportion of carbonic acid, and appears to be a compound of carbonate and of hydrate of magnesia, in the proportion (when carefully dried at  $212^{\circ}$ ) of about 73 parts of carbonate and 27 of hydrate, though the composition of the hydrate, as it exists in the compound, is not quite evident. Dr. Henry gives the following as its probable composition<sup>1</sup>:—

|                                 |       |         |
|---------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Magnesia in the Carbonate ..... | 34·34 | } 45·82 |
| Hydrate .....                   | 11·48 |         |
| Carbonic Acid.....              | 38·42 |         |
| Water .....                     | 15·76 |         |
|                                 |       | 100     |

The subcarbonate of magnesia of the shops, however, from being imperfectly dried, retains usually rather a larger relative proportion of water.

The College direct this substance to be precipitated from the boiling solution: if precipitated cold, it retains more carbonic acid, and is apt to be gritty when dried: the softest magnesia is that thrown down by pouring a boiling solution of the sulphate into a strong hot solution of carbonate of soda.

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<sup>1</sup> Elements, 9th edit. vol. i. p. 594.

# METALS AND THEIR SALTS.

## PREPARATIONS OF ANTIMONY.

### *Antimonii Sulphuretum Præcipitatum.*

R Antimonii Sulphureti contriti libras  
duas,  
Liquoris Potassæ octarios quatuor,  
Aquæ destillatæ octarios tres,  
Acidi sulphurici diluti quantum sa-  
tis sit ;

Sulphuretum Antimonii, Liquorem  
Potassæ, et Aquam inter se misce, et  
coque igne lento per horas tres, assidue  
movens, adjectâ subinde Aquâ destillatâ,  
adeò ut eandem mensuram semper im-  
pleat. Liquorem per linteum duplica-  
tum protinus cola, eique adhuc ferventi  
instilla paulatim Acidi sulphurici diluti  
quantum satis sit ad pulverem dejicien-  
dum; tum Aquâ calidâ Potassæ Sul-  
phatem ablue, Antimonii Sulphuretum  
præcipitatum exsicca, et in pulverem  
subtilem tere.

### *Precipitated Sulphuret of Antimony.*

Take of Sulphuret of Antimony, in  
powder, two pounds,  
Solution of Potassa, four  
pints,  
Distilled water, three pints,  
Diluted sulphuric Acid, a  
sufficient quantity ;

Mix the Sulphuret of Antimony, the  
Solution of Potassa, and the Water,  
and boil them over a slow fire for three  
hours, stirring them constantly, and  
occasionally adding distilled Water, so  
that the original quantity may be pre-  
served. Strain the liquor quickly through  
a double linen cloth, and while it is yet  
hot, gradually drop in a sufficient quan-  
tity of diluted sulphuric Acid to throw  
down the powder; then wash away the  
Sulphate of Potassa with hot water;  
dry the precipitated Sulphuret of Anti-  
mony, and reduce it to a fine powder.

What is here termed “precipitated sulphuret of antimony”  
is generally regarded as a hydrosulphuretted protoxide of anti-  
mony with sulphur. It is the “golden sulphur of antimony”  
of old Pharmacopœiæ, and consists, according to Cluzel, of—

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Sulphur .....               | 7     |
| Sulphuretted Hydrogen.....  | 20·3  |
| Protoxide of Antimony ..... | 82    |
|                             | <hr/> |
|                             | 109·3 |

When sulphuret of antimony (p. 32) is boiled with solution



of potassa, a portion of water is decomposed, and the result is a solution of hydrosulphuretted protoxide of antimony. This, *whilst hot*, is decomposed by sulphuric acid, sulphuretted hydrogen is evolved, sulphate of potassa formed, and the *antimonii sulphuretum precipitatum* is thrown down. When carefully dried, it is of a red-brown colour, with a shade of orange; it is insipid, insoluble in water, and in dilute sulphuric acid.

According to Berzelius, the red precipitates obtained from antimonial solutions by sulphuretted hydrogen consist, essentially, of hydrated sulphuret of antimony. There can, however, be little doubt that the above preparation contains variable proportions of protoxide of antimony, but how combined is not very evident; that it is not hydrosulphuret of oxide of antimony seems apparent, by no sulphuretted hydrogen being evolved when it is acted on by dilute acids.

This preparation, therefore, being among the uncertain antimonials, is improperly, as we think, retained in the Pharmacopœia. Like the other compounds of protoxide of antimony, it is diaphoretic and emetic, but it is scarcely ever employed except in very small doses, as an alterative in cutaneous affections, and in combination with calomel in chronic rheumatism, as in the "*pilulæ hydrargyri submuriatis*," a formula originating with Dr. Plummer, uncertain in its effects, and unchemical in its nature.

As this compound is of variable activity, the dose should be small at first, and gradually increased. Half a grain will generally suffice to begin with, and from two to three grains are usually enough to nauseate, purge, or vomit. In chronic rheumatism it is not unfrequently prescribed with small doses of opium, of henbane, or of hemlock, conjoined with mercurials, as in the following formulæ:—

R Antimonii Sulphur. præcip. gr. v.

Pilul. Hydrargyr.

Extract. Hyoscyami, āā ʒj.

Misce ut fiat massa in pilulas decem dividenda, quarum sumatur una ter die.

R Sulphureti Antimonii præcipitati,

Hydrargyri Submuriatis, āā gr. ss.

Extracti Conii gr. iv.

Fiat pilula ter die sumenda.

With either of these, half a pint to a pint of decoction of sarsaparilla may be taken during the day, and as they keep up more or less perspiratory action, all sudden changes of temperature and exposure to cold should carefully be avoided,

*Antimonium Tartarizatum.**Tartarized Antimony.*

R Vitri Antimonii in pulverem subtilissimum contriti,

Potassæ Supertartratis contritæ, singulorum libram,

Aquæ destillatæ ferventis congium;

Vitrum Antimonii cum Potassæ Supertartrate accuratè misce, et in Aquam destillatam ferventem paulatim conjice, spathâ assiduè movens; coque per quadrantem horæ, et sepone. Liqueorem frige factum cola, et liquorem colatum decoque ut fiant crystalli.

Take of Glass of Antimony, very finely powdered,

Supertartrate of Potassa, in powder, of each a pound,

Boiling distilled Water, a gallon;

Accurately mix the glass of Antimony and the Supertartrate of Potassa, and add them by degrees to the boiling distilled Water, constantly stirring it with a spatula; boil for a quarter of an hour and set it by. Filter the solution when cold, and evaporate the filtered liquor, so that crystals may form.

When protoxide of antimony is boiled with supertartrate of potassa, a considerable portion is dissolved by the excess of acid in the latter salt, which is thus neutralised, and the solution affords, on evaporation, crystals of emetic tartar: the general form of which is that of an octaedron with a rhombic base. Their composition has been variously stated, and experiments are still wanting to demonstrate the relative proportions of its component parts; its most probable composition is *two* proportionals of protoxide of antimony and *one* of bitartrate of potassa; or

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Protoxide of Antimony ( $77 \times 2$ ) ..... | 154 |
| Bitartrate of Potassa.....                    | 180 |

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334

The crystals probably include two proportionals of water, so that the equivalent of the crystallised salt is  $334 + 18 = 352$ .

It is assumed that the protoxide of antimony consists of one proportional of antimony and one and a half of oxygen, or  $65 \text{ antimony} + 12 \text{ oxygen} = 77$ .

Various modes of preparing a protoxide of antimony for the production of this salt have been suggested, and adopted in the different Pharmacopœiæ. It is readily obtained from the submuriate and subsulphate of antimony by washing those salts with solution of potassa, but glass of antimony, prescribed in the above formula, is an excellent substitute for the other varieties, and may generally be had in the market as imported from Germany, at a very moderate price. Its usual component parts are protoxide of antimony, sulphuret of antimony, and silica. When *very finely powdered* it is readily acted on by the tartar, though, as remarked by Mr. Phillips, the ebullition should be continued for a longer time than above directed,



Glass of antimony is sometimes adulterated with oxide of lead, a fraud easily detected by digesting it in nitric acid, which solution, if lead be present, affords a white precipitate on the addition of dilute sulphuric acid. The most troublesome sophistication is that in which pieces of glass of lead are mixed with pure glass of antimony, in which case they are difficultly recognised by the eye: it is, therefore, as well to examine the bulk of the powdered glass of antimony for lead, previous to boiling it with the tartar.

Glass of antimony is merely inserted in the list of the *Materia Medica* of the *Pharmacopœia*, and no process is given for its preparation; as, however, it sometimes cannot be procured, except at a high price, it may not be improper here to state the method of forming it:—

Sulphuret of antimony in powder is exposed in a shallow iron dish to a very moderate heat, and is kept constantly stirred to prevent agglutination; if this happens, it must be removed from the fire and again reduced to powder. When a moderate heat ceases to cause the evolution of sulphureous vapours, the fire must be gradually increased till they again appear, and in this way it may be slowly augmented till the bottom of the dish becomes red hot, and fumes of sulphur are no longer evolved. The grey powder thus obtained answers well for the production of tartarised antimony; but if it be desired to vitrify it, it must be put into a covered earthen crucible, and exposed to a strong heat till it fuses into a clear glass, when it may be poured out upon a brass plate; it should be transparent, and of a bright brownish-red or hyacinthine colour.

Glass of antimony was formerly used as a diaphoretic, laxative, and emetic, but is now properly laid aside.

In preparing emetic tartar, the operator should take care that the crystals are well defined, and not mixed with those of uncombined tartar; if crystalline tufts of tartrate of lime form with the other crystals, they may easily be brushed off when the supernatant liquor is poured away.

The crystals of emetic tartar, at first transparent, soon became translucent and opaque, slightly efflorescing upon the surface, and acquiring a yellowish hue. They dissolve in about 2 parts of boiling water, and in 15 parts at 60°, and are insoluble in alcohol. The aqueous solution soon spontaneously decomposes.

Tartarised antimony, alone or in combination, is capable of fulfilling a variety of important indications in disease. In very small doses it acts principally upon the skin; in larger doses it nauseates, and produces purging and vomiting, together with a more powerful diaphoretic effect. As a dia-

phoretic, it may be given in repeated doses of an eighth of a grain to half a grain conjoined with saline remedies, in solution. Or it may be administered as an oxide of antimony with chalk or magnesia.

R Antimonii Tartarisati gr. j. solve in  
Aquæ destil. f ʒj.

R Solutionis præscriptæ f ʒj.  
Liq. Ammon. Acetat. f ʒss.  
Mistur. Camphor. f ʒx.  
Syrup. Aurant. f ʒss.

M. fiat haustus tertiâ vel quartâ quâque horâ ab hibendus.

R Potass. Subcarbonatis ʒj.  
Succi Limonum recentis f ʒiss. vel q. s. ad saturationem,  
Aquæ Cinnamomi f ʒj.  
Aquæ destill. f ʒiij.  
Solutionis præscriptæ f ʒiij.  
Syrupi Tolutani f ʒij.

M. fiat mistura, cujus sumantur cochlearia duo magna omni horâ.

In thus employing emetic tartar, it is better to direct an extemporaneous solution, as above, than to trust to the *vinum antimonii tartarisati* of the Pharmacopœia.

R Antimonii Tartarisati gr. j.  
Cretæ præparatæ,  
Sacchari albi, aa ʒss.

Accuratissimè misce, et divide in partes decem æquales, quarum sumat unam secundâ quâque horâ.

The operation of these powders may be aided by warm drinks, and by other sudorifics, and, if necessary, the dose of the antimonial may be doubled, or in some cases quadrupled, till it produces the desired effect. For children, the dose, as a diaphoretic, is from a sixteenth to a fourth of a grain: the latter seldom fails to nauseate. In such cases, however, this and all other antimonials should be used with extreme caution, for, in very young children especially, they sometimes produce very distressing, and even fatal vomiting.

When emetic tartar is given mixed with chalk or other substance by which it is decomposed, and its protoxide of antimony separated, it appears to have more tendency to act on the bowels and less to nauseate, than when in undecomposed solution. As an alvine evacuant it is, however, principally valuable in conjunction with common purges, which it often remarkably aids in their operation; it also assists the action of expectorants, and with that view is sometimes combined with squills, ammoniacum, &c.



As an emetic, tartarised antimony is seldom given alone, but one grain is mixed with ten or fifteen of ipecacuanha; the compound is quick and certain in its action. The best mode of administering it as an emetic alone is the following :—

R Antimon. Tartarisat. gr. iij.

Mistur. Camphor. f ℥iv.

M. sumat quartam partem singulis horæ quadrantibus, donec vomitus excitatus sit.

In this way considerable nausea is produced, and the evacuation of the stomach may be very completely effected by the aid of warm water or chamomile tea. It is an effectual emetic at the commencement of many febrile diseases, and the action upon the skin must be maintained by diluents and keeping in bed.

Emetic tartar is occasionally employed externally in the form of ointment, as a means of producing irritation and a pustular eruption upon the skin, which it does very effectually, though it is seldom thus prescribed, partly on account of the troublesome ulceration which sometimes ensues, and partly in consequence of other rubefacients answering equally as irritants, without any such inconvenience. The proportion of tartarised antimony to that of lard or common white ointment is about two drachms to one ounce: the salt should be reduced to a very fine powder, and very perfectly triturated with the grease.

This salt in large doses is a virulent poison when it remains for any time in the stomach; but it is usually soon rejected, and the only necessary treatment consists in the copious administration of warm water. Infusions of bark and of galls have been recommended as antidotes by Orfila<sup>1</sup>, who supposes that by decomposition they disarm emetic tartar of its powers; but their beneficial action upon this principle is very doubtful. If free vomiting does not occur, oil and warm water will sometimes induce it; or nauseous vegetable infusions taken warm, as of chamomile or wormwood. When the stomach has been emptied, opium and other narcotics may be used to allay the spasmodic and nervous symptoms, and in case of any consecutive inflammatory action, bleeding may be resorted to.

The above are the principal uses of emetic tartar; the facility with which it is prepared, the certain uniformity of its composition, the ease with which it is exhibited in divided doses, and the circumstance of its performing all that can be attained by

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<sup>1</sup> *Traité des Poisons*, vol. i. p. 224.

the other antimonials, point it out as their common substitute, and lead us to regret that any uncertain and ineffectual preparations of the metal are retained in the Pharmacopœia.

*Vinum Antimonii Tartarizati.*      *Wine of Tartarised Antimony.*

R Antimonii Tartarizati scrupulum,  
Aquæ destillatæ ferventis fluiduncias octo,  
Spiritus rectificati fluiduncias duas :

Antimonium tartarizatum in Aqua destillata fervente liqua; tum liquori colato spiritum adjice.

Take of tartarised Antimony, one scruple,  
Boiling distilled Water, eight fluidounces,  
Rectified Spirit, two fluidounces ;

Dissolve the tartarised Antimony in the boiling distilled Water; then add the spirit to the filtered liquor.

Tartarised antimony is perfectly insoluble in alcohol, but the addition of two ounces of alcohol to the dilute solution in the above formula causes no precipitation, and so far is unobjectionable. It will be remarked that the term *vinum* is here applied to a solution containing no wine: while the vinous solution of the late Pharmacopœia was called *liquor*; an anomalous mode of nomenclature, productive of some inconvenience: the strength of the two solutions is, however, similar; two grains of emetic tartar being contained in each fluidounce. Almost all the solutions of emetic tartar are liable to spontaneous changes, and in some of them they take place rapidly in warm weather. The *vinum* of the above formula remains clear for a long time, and offers, at all events when recently prepared, a convenient solution, by which small doses of its active ingredient may be portioned out. In doses of from 10 to 30 drops it acts as a diaphoretic when given with saline medicines, warm drinks, and other auxiliaries; one to two drachms generally nauseates; and half an ounce to an ounce may be used as a vomit. In prescribing this and other antimonials, it must not be forgotten that from idiosyncrasy a very small dose sometimes proves eminently active, and in such cases a grain of the salt not only evacuates the stomach, but occasions protracted vomiting, spasms of the stomach and abdominal muscles, fainting, and other untoward symptoms: these are best counteracted by cordials with opiates.



*Pulvis Antimonialis.*

R Antimonii Sulphureti contriti li-  
bram,  
Cornuum rasorum libras duas ;

Misce et conjice in crucibulum latum igne candens, et assidue move donec vapor conspicuus non amplius ascendat. Quod restat, in pulverem tere et crucibulo idoneo immitte. Tum ignem subministra et paulatim auge ut candeat per horas duas. Residuum tere ut fiat pulvis subtilissimus.

*Antimonial Powder.*

Take of Sulphuret of Antimony in powder, a pound,  
Hartshorn shavings, two pounds ;

Mix, and throw them into a wide crucible heated to whiteness, and stir constantly, as long as much vapour arises. Reduce what remains to powder, and put it into a proper crucible. Then expose it to a gradual fire and heat it to whiteness, for two hours. Reduce the residue to a very fine powder.

The activity of antimonials entirely depends upon the state of oxidizement of the metal ; the protoxide is very active ; the peroxide comparatively inert, and requiring therefore to be administered in very large doses to produce those effects which result from very small doses of the former ; and even then it is but uncertain in its operation. All antimonials, therefore, which are liable to contain the metal in uncertain or indeterminate degrees of oxidizement, or rather, which may contain varying proportions of the two oxides, are highly objectionable, and among them none more so than the above, which sometimes is active and sometimes inert, according as more or less of the protoxide is left in the product.

By the action of heat as above directed, the sulphur is in the first instance burnt off, and the antimony converted into protoxide, as in the process for making glass of antimony ; the protoxide itself is volatile, and accordingly, at the high temperature directed above, it also is partly volatilised and partly converted into a fixed peroxide, and what remains is chiefly bone-earth with this peroxide, and a trace of protoxide, the quantity and state of the oxide depending upon slight modifications in the process, which can scarcely be controlled. Accordingly, upon submitting “ pulvis antimonialis ” prepared by different persons and at different times, to analysis, its composition is found to be extremely variable, and in two instances scarcely any oxide of antimony could be detected in it. Mr. Phillips analysed two samples with the following results :—

|                            |       |       |       |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Peroxide of Antimony ..... | 35    | ..... | 38    |
| Phosphate of Lime .....    | 65    | ..... | 62    |
|                            | <hr/> |       | <hr/> |
|                            | 100   |       | 100   |

But I have generally found a greater discordance, and, in some

instances, as much as 5 per cent. of protoxide has been detected, contributing of course to the activity of the powder.

Antimonial powder was originally introduced into the Pharmacopœia as a substitute for James's celebrated fever powder, which, according to the analysis of Dr. Pearson<sup>1</sup>, verified by Mr. Phillips<sup>2</sup>, consists of—

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Peroxide of Antimony ..... | 56    |
| Phosphate of Lime .....    | 44    |
|                            | <hr/> |
|                            | 100   |

It may be right to state that the oxides of antimony which I have here termed *protoxide* and *peroxide* are respectively composed of 1 proportional of metal and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  of oxygen, and 1 of metal and 2 of oxygen, and that the number 65 is assumed as the prime equivalent of antimony; the equivalent, therefore, of the protoxide is  $(65+12)=77$ , and that of the peroxide  $(65+16)=81$  <sup>3</sup>.

Antimonial powder is principally employed as a diaphoretic in febrile diseases, and in consequence of its insolubility is generally given in pills. Its activity must sometimes be ascribed to the protoxide which it contains, for in the dose of four or six grains it occasionally excites perspiration, and acts with more or less energy on the bowels. Its occasional inertness is easily accounted for, and accordingly it has been given in doses of 100 grains and upwards without effect; this was probably mere bone-earth, or at all events an antimonial powder deficient in protoxide: but from such instances we are not to infer that antimonial powder is always inert; on the contrary, it sometimes proves virulently emetic from accidental redundancy of the protoxide.

I have spoken above of the advantage of substituting tartarised antimony for this preparation, of which from one-eighth to one-fourth of a grain will generally be found equivalent to from five to ten grains of the “*pulvis antimonialis*.” In the administration of antimonials, peculiarities of habit remarkably interfere with their effects, and a dose of emetic tartar, that in one person merely acts upon the skin and bowels in a gentle and agreeable way, shall in another exhibit itself with alarming activity, producing vomiting and purging, ex-

<sup>1</sup> Phil. Trans. vol. lxxxi.

<sup>2</sup> Transl. Pharmacop. p. 85.

<sup>3</sup> The *antimonic acid* obtained by acting on the metal or its oxides by nitric acid, consists of 1 proportional of metal and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  oxygen; its equivalent therefore is  $(65+30)=95$ .



cessive depression of strength and of spirits, syncope, and lasting nausea.

Opium and other narcotics are often advantageously combined with antimonials, where allaying pain and exciting the action of the cuticular vessels are the indications to be fulfilled.

R Opii pulver. gr. j.

Pulveris Antimonialis gr. iij.

Confect. Rosæ Gallicæ q. s. ut fiat pilula quartâ vel sextâ quâque horâ sumenda cum haustu salino communi.

A mixture of antimonial powder, calomel, and opium, is often effectual in allaying the most urgent symptoms of acute rheumatism, especially after the bowels have been freely evacuated.

R Pulver. Antimonialis ℥ss.

Hydrargyri Submuriatis gr. v.

Opii pulver. gr. x.

Misce optimè et adde Confectionis Rosæ Gallicæ q. s. ut fiant pilulæ decem, quarum capiat unam sextâ quâque horâ, superbibendo

Misturæ Camphoræ fort. (p. 56) f℥x.

In these formulæ, as a substitute for the *pulvis antimonialis* of the Pharmacopœia, I should recommend the following with a view to obviate all uncertainty:—

R Antimonii Tartarisati, gr. viij.

Pulv. Gum. Acaciæ,

Cretæ præparatæ, ʒā 3j.

Of this powder 16 grains contain 1 grain of tartarised antimony, and from 2 to 4 grains will be the average dose for the fulfilment of those indications which are generally expected from 4 to 8 grains of common antimonial powder. In preparing it, the crystals of tartarised antimony should first be reduced to very fine powder, and the other ingredients added by little at a time during constant trituration, with a view of insuring perfect uniformity and mixture.

Various propositions have been made for preparing antimonial powder in the humid way; that suggested by Mr. Chenevix furnishes a much more active compound than either James's powder or the preparation of the Pharmacopœia, but it would be easy so to adjust the component parts as to obviate this objection: the precipitate is, however, also apt to become horny or gritty, and difficult to powder, and under any circumstances it appears to offer no advantage that compensates for the trouble and expense of the process.

## PREPARATION OF SILVER.

*Argenti Nitras.*

R Argenti unciam,  
Acidi nitrici fluidunciam,  
Aquæ destillatæ fluiduncias duas;

Acidum nitricum Aquâ misce, et in his Argentum balneo arenæ liqua. Dein calorem paulatim auge, ut sicce-  
tur Argenti Nitras. Hanc in cruci-  
bulo, lento igne, liquefac, donec, ex-  
pulsâ Aquâ, cessaverit ebullitio; tum  
statim effunde in formas idoneas.

*Nitrate of Silver.*

Take of Silver, an ounce,  
Nitric Acid, a fluidounce, +  
Distilled Water, two fluid  
ounces;

Mix the nitric Acid with the Wa-  
ter, and dissolve the Silver in the  
mixture in a sand-bath. Then in-  
crease the heat gradually that the  
Nitrate of Silver may be dried. Melt  
this in a crucible over a slow fire,  
until, the Water having been expelled  
the ebullition ceases; then pour it  
immediately into proper moulds.

In this process the silver is oxidized at the expense of one portion of the acid, nitrous gas is therefore evolved, and the resulting oxide of silver (composed of 110 silver + 8 oxygen = 118) combining with the other portion of the acid yields, on evaporation, colourless prismatic crystals of nitrate of silver, which are anhydrous, and consist of—

|                                     |       |      |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 proportional of Nitric Acid ..... | 54    | .... | 31.4  |
| 1 ————— Oxide of Silver .....       | 118   | .... | 68.6  |
|                                     | <hr/> |      | <hr/> |
|                                     | 172   |      | 100   |

For internal use this salt ought to be kept in crystals, but the above formula directs the immediate evaporation of the solution to dryness, and the fusion of the dried salt, which is then cast into moulds for surgical use; and it is in this state only that it is usually found in apothecaries' shops.

It is better in all cases to crystallise the nitrate of silver, and carefully to fuse the crystals in a silver crucible over a lamp: the mould in which the sticks are cast should be warmed to prevent the too rapid cooling of the fused salt, which then becomes extremely brittle; and care should be taken to employ no more heat than is requisite for its liquefaction, since it easily suffers decomposition and becomes black from the deposition of oxide of silver. The silver employed should be free from copper, and the acid should be pure, in which case the resulting solution is clear and colourless; a little black powder frequently separates, which is gold. This salt of silver is eminently susceptible of the agency of light, which blackens and decomposes it.



The principal use of nitrate of silver is as a caustic ; it kills the parts to which it is applied, and being much less soluble than pure potassa, and not deliquescent, it is easier of application and less apt to spread. Distilled water at 60° dissolves about its own weight of this salt ; the solution should be transparent and colourless ; if of a bluish tinge, and becoming deep blue on the addition of ammonia, it contains copper. It may thus be used in any state of dilution, and is a very valuable application in many cases of ulcerating sores, in the proportion of from one to five grains to the ounce of distilled water. The part may be touched twice or thrice a day, with a camel-hair pencil dipped in this solution, which should be of such strength as to occasion smarting. In fistulous sores it is sometimes used as an injection, and it has been recommended as a mouth-wash in scorbutic affections of the gums, and apthæ of the fauces.

As an internal remedy, nitrate of silver has gained much and apparently deserved celebrity in the treatment of epilepsy. In this disease it has been administered in doses beginning with an eighth of a grain and carried up to 4 or 6 grains three or four times a day ; it is usually taken made into pills with bread-crumbs, and the best dose appears to be half a grain thrice a day, gradually increased to a grain and a half or 2 grains. Under this treatment the fits often decrease at first in violence and then in frequency until the patient recovers, and where the bowels are moderately acted upon, the efficacy of the remedy appears most certain<sup>1</sup>. There is a very disagreeable effect which frequently follows this use of nitrate of silver, which is the discolouration of the *rete mucosum*, so that the whole surface of the body, and especially those parts which are most exposed to light, acquire a leaden-grey or livid colour which is permanent<sup>2</sup>. Various means have been resorted to with a view of preventing this effect, or of removing it when it has taken place, but hitherto without success. It is curious that excessive acidity at the stomach is a frequent concomitant of epilepsy, and that Dr. Prout's experiments<sup>3</sup> have shown that the free acid of the stomach is the muriatic, an acid the base of which would instantly decompose the nitrate of silver.

Nitrate of silver has occasionally been resorted to in other diseases attended by morbid nervous excitement and debility ; in certain convulsive affections, in chorea, and in *angina pectoris*.

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<sup>1</sup> Med. Chir. Trans., vol. ix. p. 234.

<sup>2</sup> Albers and Roget, Med. Chir. Trans., vol. vii. p. 284.

<sup>3</sup> Phil. Trans. 1823.

When taken in over-doses it operates in the same manner as the other corrosive poisons; perhaps the best antidote consists in copious draughts of salt and water, by which chloride of silver would be formed, a compound, in all probability, nearly if not quite inert. Orfila's results, however, in reference to this counter-poison, were not very satisfactory<sup>1</sup>.

## PREPARATIONS OF ARSENIC.

### *Arsenicum Album Sublimatum.*      *Sublimed White Arsenic.*

Arsenicum album in pulverem tere; tum conjice in crucibulum, et, admoto igne, in crucibulum aliud priori superimpositum sublima.

Reduce white Arsenic to powder, then put it into a crucible, and expose it to fire, so as to sublime it into another crucible inverted over the former.

If arsenic be purchased in lumps, as it usually occurs in commerce, this process is scarcely necessary; when sold in the form of powder it is sometimes adulterated, and then it may doubtless be purified by sublimation, but it is not easy to perform this process according to the directions given above; it is best effected by introducing the white arsenic into a coated glass retort, into the neck of which it may be sublimed by a moderate red heat, and afterwards removed by cutting off the bulb. A large Florence flask placed in a sand heat also answers the purpose extremely well.

After what has been said above (p. 34), we have little to add here upon the subject of arsenic and its preparations—except to re-enforce extreme caution whenever it is employed, and never to prescribe it except where the case can be carefully watched over, for most practitioners admit that it occasionally accumulates in the system, and may thus become a source of very serious diseases; with such precautions, however, arsenic is not unfrequently prescribed by practitioners of great eminence and judgment.

In reference to this formula, the reader need only be reminded that the adulteration of white arsenic may be detected by heating a little of it in a crucible, when it should be entirely volatilised at a dull red heat; chalk, gypsum, sulphate

<sup>1</sup> Traité des Poisons, tom. i. part ii. p. 46.



of baryta, and other fixed substances with which it may have been mixed, remain behind.

### *Liquor Arsenicalis.*

℞ Arsenici albi sublimati, in pulverem subtilissimum triti,  
Potassæ Subcarbonatis ex Tartaro, singulorum, grana sexaginta quatuor,  
Spiritus Lavandulæ compositi fluidrachmas quatuor,  
Aquæ destillatæ octarium;

Arsenicum album et Potassæ Subcarbonatem coque cum Aquâ in vase vitreo, donec Arsenicum omne liquetur. Liquori frigefacto adjice Spiritum Lavandulæ compositum. Denique adjice insuper Aquæ destillatæ quantum satis sit, ut mensuram octarii accuratè impleat.

### *Arsenical Solution.*

Take of sublimed white Arsenic in very fine powder,  
Subcarbonate of Potassa from Tartar, of each sixty-four grains,  
Compound Spirit of Lavender, four fluidrachms,  
Distilled Water, a pint;

Boil the white Arsenic and the Subcarbonate of Potassa with the Water in a glass vessel until the whole of the Arsenic is dissolved. When the solution is cold, add the compound Spirit of Lavender. Lastly, add to the whole as much distilled Water as may be requisite to make it exactly fill a pint measure.

This is a solution of arsenite of potassa and subcarbonate of potassa, in distilled water, coloured by compound spirit of lavender. The common subcarbonate of potassa is generally nearly as pure as that obtained by the calcination of tartar; the latter, therefore, is unnecessarily selected. If *pure* subcarbonate of potassa be required, it is easily procured by heating the carbonate to redness, in a silver crucible; but the usually occurring impurities do not in the least interfere with the activity of this arsenical solution. It contains in the fluid-ounce 4 grains of white arsenic, and is administered in the cure of obstinate intermittents in the dose of from 4 to 12 or 15 minims, three or four times a day, in the intervals of the febrile paroxysms. (*See also page 35.*)

℞ Liquoris Arsenicalis ℥iv.

Aquæ destillatæ f 3j.

Spiritus Cinnamomi,

Syrupi Zingiberis, ʒā f 3j.

M. fiat haustus sextâ quâque horâ capiendus.

Sometimes it gripes the bowels and irritates the stomach unless conjoined with aromatics and small doses of opium.

R Confectionis Aromaticæ ʒj<sup>1</sup>.  
 Aquæ Menthæ sativæ f ʒj.  
 Tincturæ Opii,  
 Liquoris Arsenicalis, aa mʒj.  
 M. fiat hautus ter quotidie sumendus.

There are other disorders in which arsenic has been administered internally: it has cured obstinate intermittent headaches; it has removed cuticular eruptions of long standing, and yielding to no other internal or external remedy; it is also said to have been of service in epilepsy and in tetanus; but evidence much more direct and extended is requisite to justify such employment of so dangerous a poison.

## PREPARATION OF BISMUTH.

### *Bismuthi Subnitræs.*

### *Subnitrate of Bismuth.*

R Bismuthi unciam,  
 Acidi nitrici fluidunciam cum semisse,  
 Aquæ destillatæ octarios tres;  
 Aquæ destillatæ fluidrachmas sex cum Acido nitrico misce, et Bismuthum in his liqua: tum cola. Aquæ quod reliquum est liquori colato adjice, et sepone ut subsidat pulvis. Deinde effuso liquore supernatante, Bismuthi Subnitratem Aquâ destillatâ ablue et chartâ bibulâ involutam, leni calore exsicca.

Take of Bismuth an ounce,  
 Nitric Acid, a fluidounce and a half,  
 Distilled Water, three pints;  
 Mix six fluidrachms of the distilled Water with the nitric Acid, and dissolve the Bismuth in this mixture; then filter. Mix the remaining Water with the filtered solution, and set it by that the powder may subside. Then having poured off the supernatant liquor, wash the Subnitrate of Bismuth with distilled Water, and dry it, wrapped in bibulous paper, in a gentle heat.

Bismuth is susceptible of only one degree of oxidizement; this it suffers when exposed to the joint action of heat and air, throwing off yellow fumes, composed of—

|                                 |   |    |      |      |
|---------------------------------|---|----|------|------|
| 1 proportional of Bismuth ..... | = | 71 | .... | 89.8 |
| 1 ————— Oxygen .....            | = | 8  | .... | 10.2 |
|                                 |   | 79 |      | 100  |

When bismuth is dissolved in nitric acid sparingly diluted,

<sup>1</sup> The chalk in the aromatic confection does not interfere with the activity of the *liquor arsenicalis*.



it forms a colourless transparent liquor, from which prismatic crystals of *nitrate of bismuth* are deposited; if these, or the nitric solution be acted upon by a large proportion of water, they are decomposed, and a fine white powder is thrown down, which is a *subnitrate*: its composition has not been accurately determined: it is the *magistery of bismuth* of the old pharmaceutical chemists, and has long been employed as a pigment under the name of *Spanish white*. It is tasteless, and insoluble in water.

Subnitrate of bismuth has been used as a tonic and sedative in certain cases of dyspepsia attended by pain and spasm<sup>1</sup>. The best form for its use is that of a pill, with bread-crumbs. 4 grains may at first be taken thrice a day, and the dose gradually augmented to 12 or 15 grains.

Dr. Paris says, that in pyrosis, and spasmodic gastrodynia associated with acidity and other signs of depraved indigestion, it furnishes the practitioner with a very valuable resource; he prescribes it as follows:—

R Bismuthi Subnitratis gr. viij.  
Mucilaginis Acaciæ fʒij. tere simul.  
et adde Mistur. Amygdal. fʒj.  
M. fiat haustus.

To this simple form may be added,—

Tincturæ Opii, ℥v—x.  
Or,  
Morphiæ Acetatis gr. ss.  
Or,  
Liquor. Morphiæ Muriat. ℥xx.  
Or,  
Tinctur. Hyoscyam. ʒss.

From the observations of Orfila<sup>2</sup>, it would appear that in large doses this substance proves an acrid poison: he repeats the absurd assertion that the English bakers whiten their bread with it.

Mr. Brodie frequently prescribes an ointment composed of a drachm of subnitrate of bismuth, mixed with six drachms or one ounce of spermaceti cerate, as applicable to irritable and excoriated surfaces.

<sup>1</sup> Bardsley, Med. Reports, 1807.—Yeats, Quarterly Journal, vol. viii. p. 295.

<sup>2</sup> Traité des Poisons, tom. i. 2me partie, p. 60.

## PREPARATIONS OF COPPER.

*Cuprum Ammoniatum.*

R Cupri Sulphatis unciam dimidiam,  
  
Ammoniaë Subcarbonatis drachmas  
sex ;

Tere simul in mortario vitreo, donec  
cessaverit ebullitio ; deinde Cuprum  
ammoniatum, chartâ bibulâ involutum,  
leni calore exsicca.

*Ammoniated Copper.*

Take of Sulphate of Copper, half an  
ounce,  
Subcarbonate of Ammonia,  
six drachms ;

Rub them together in a glass mor-  
tar until the effervescence shall have  
ceased ; then dry the ammoniated  
Copper, wrapped in bibulous paper, by  
a gentle heat.

The compound obtained by this process has a rich blue colour, its odour is generally ammoniacal, and its taste saline and styptic. Subsulphate of copper, sulphate of ammonia, and carbonate of ammonia and copper, are among its usual constituents ; and when it has been dried at a very low heat, and not unnecessarily exposed to air, the proportion of carbonate of ammonia which it retains is often considerable.

This preparation of copper is generally placed by writers on the *Materia Medica* in the list of tonics and antispasmodics, but it has little claim to either of those characters. It has been recommended in epilepsy, and is among the remedies which are usually tried in hopeless cases of that disorder : from one to five grains are given three times or twice a day, in the form of pill ; there are, however, very few practitioners who place any confidence in its powers, and it is certainly not well adapted for internal use : small doses of sulphate of copper are preferable.

Mr. Thomson and Dr. Paris both say that ammoniated copper has been given with advantage in chorea, after a course of purgatives ; but in this disease sulphate of copper, sulphate of zinc, vegetable antispasmodics, and musk, and sometimes cold bathing and affusion, are remedies more to be depended on. There appears, on the whole, no good reason for retaining "*cuprum ammoniatum*" in the *Pharmacopœia*.

*Liquor Cupri Ammoniat.*

R Cupri ammoniati drachmam,  
Aquaë destillatæ octarium ;  
  
Liqua Cuprum ammoniatum in  
Aqua, et per chartam cola.

*Solution of Ammoniated Copper.*

Take of ammoniated Copper, a drachm,  
Distilled Water, a pint ;  
  
Dissolve the ammoniated Copper  
in the Water, and filter through paper.



This solution is stimulant and astringent, and is among the numerous applications which sometimes induce indolent ulcers to assume healthy actions, and ultimately cleanse and heal them; but it frequently proves mischievously irritating. It appears to possess no advantage over a solution of sulphate of copper, and that is often a valuable remedy (p. 92). To say nothing of the uncertain composition of the *cuprum ammoniatum* itself, the solution directed above is open to a serious objection, arising out of the decomposition which that compound of copper suffers when dissolved in a large quantity of water; it occasions the separation of oxide of copper. Solution of ammoniated copper has also been extolled as a stimulant for the cornea, where it is threatened with specks and opacity; but here again the sulphate of copper is a preferable application.

## PREPARATIONS OF IRON.

### *Ferrum Ammoniatum.*

℞ Ferri Subcarbonatis,  
Acidi muriatici,  
Ammoniæ Muriatis, singulorum  
libram;

Ferri Subcarbonati superinfunde acidum muriaticum, et sepone donec bullulæ non ampliùs excitentur. Solutionem per chartam cola, et coque et recoque donec omnis humor absorptus sit. Quod restat, cum Ammoniæ Muriate diligenter misce: et igne acri subjecto protinùs sublima: denique in pulverem tere.

### *Ammoniated Iron.*

Take of Subcarbonate of Iron,  
Muriatic Acid,  
Muriate of Ammonia, of each  
a pound;

Pour the muriatic Acid upon the Subcarbonate of Iron, and set it by until the effervescence has ceased. Filter the solution through paper, and evaporate it to dryness. Mix the residue well with the Muriate of Ammonia, and sublime them immediately in a strong fire: then powder the sublimate.

This preparation of iron is a very useless incumbrance to the Pharmacopœia, and is never prescribed by those physicians who are acquainted with the chemical properties of the remedies which they exhibit. As, however, the formula is retained, it will be right to make some further remarks upon it. The first part of the process directs the formation of a pure chloride of iron, for which, however, the proportion of oxide (subcarbonate) used is unnecessarily large: this is to be mixed and sublimed with the muriate of ammonia, and the resulting sublimate, composed of muriate of ammonia, and perchloride of iron, is ultimately to be powdered for use.

If any peculiar medical virtues belonged to a mixture of perchloride of iron and muriate of ammonia, it might easily and certainly be prepared by mixing the muriate of ammonia with a solution of permuriate of iron, and evaporating to dryness: in this way there would be no risk of decomposing either substance, and the process of sublimation (which is useless) would be altogether avoided. Or, a still less objectionable process would consist in mixing, in the requisite proportions, sublimed perchloride of iron with muriate of ammonia.

Under the names *flores martiales*, *ens martis*, *flores auri*, and *calendulæ minerales*, this compound has very long been used as a deobstruent and tonic alterative; and as it contains a very efficient preparation of iron, the praises that have been bestowed upon it are perhaps not altogether groundless. It is among the remedies which have been prescribed with success in epilepsy and a variety of other nervous affections, and has been especially extolled as a tonic for children of scrofulous and rickety habits: in these cases, six to ten grains are given three or four times a day to adults; and to children rather less than half that quantity. It may be administered in pills, in electuary, or in solution; but the *tinctura ferri muriatis* is in all cases a proper substitute, to which muriate of ammonia is easily added by those who attribute any additional efficacy to the combination.

### *Ferri Subcarbonas.*

R Ferri Sulphatis uncias octo,  
Sodæ Subcarbonatis uncias sex,  
Aquæ ferventis congium;

Ferri Sulphatem et Sodæ Subcarbonatem separatim liqua in Aquæ octariis quatuor; tum liquores inter se misce, et sepone, ut pulvis subsidat; deinde, effuso liquore supernatante, Ferri Subcarbonatem Aquâ calidâ ablue, et chartâ bibulâ involutam leni calore exsicca.

### *Subcarbonate of Iron.*

Take of Sulphate [of Iron, eight ounces,  
Subcarbonate of Soda, six ounces,  
Boiling Water, a gallon;

Dissolve the Sulphate of Iron and the Subcarbonate of Soda separately in four pints of the Water; then mix the solutions and set them by, that the powder may subside; then having poured off the supernatant liquor, wash the Subcarbonate of Iron with hot Water, and dry it in bibulous paper, by a gentle heat.

When a solution of protosulphate of iron is thus mixed with one of carbonate of soda, a double decomposition ensues, and a hydrated protocarbonate of iron is thrown down of a green colour, sulphate of soda remaining in solution. When



the hydrated protocarbonate of iron formed in the first instance is exposed to air, and dried in a gentle heat, it loses water and carbonic acid, and acquires oxygen : its green colour is at the same time changed to a rich reddish brown, and in this state it constitutes what is above termed “subcarbonate of iron :” it is, however, in fact, a peroxide of iron, retaining a variable, but generally very small proportion of carbonic acid. The only form in which carbonate of iron can be conveniently administered is in the humid form, as originally precipitated, and in this state it exists in the “*mistura ferri composita*.”

Peroxide of iron, however, prepared as above, is obtained in a very finely divided state, and is a useful chalybeate. It is inodorous, insipid, and insoluble in water ; generally, therefore, administered in powder or pill, combined with bitters and aromatics, where it is merely intended as a tonic ; and with aloetics, valerian, and myrrh, when directed more immediately to the uterine system. It may be given in doses of from five to twenty grains, twice or thrice a day.

R Ferri Subcarbonatis gr. x.  
Pulveris Cinnamomi compos. gr. v.  
M. fiat pulvis mane et meridie sumendus.

R Ferri Subcarbonatis,  
Extracti Anthemidis, āā 3ss.  
Misce et divide in pilulas xij. quarum sumat binas ter  
quotidie.

R Ferri Carbonatis gr. x.  
Pulveris Valerianæ 3ss.  
Syrup. Zingiberis, q. s.  
Fiat bolus. [Paris.]

R Ferri Carbonatis 3j. ~  
Pilul. Aloes c. Myrrha 3ss.  
M. et divide in pilulas xvij. duæ bis terve in die sumendæ.

In large doses this preparation of iron has been recommended by Mr. Hutchinson in the treatment of *tic douloureux*. He administers it in doses of from half a drachm to a drachm, twice or three times a day.—(See *Ferrum*, in the *Materia Medica*, p. 105.)

Prepared rust of iron, and the red oxide (formerly called *colcothar*, or *caput mortuum vitrioli*) remaining after the decomposition of sulphate of iron at high temperatures, together with several other varieties of the peroxide of this metal, were once directed in the *Pharmacopœia* ; these have very properly given place to the present subcarbonate, which is an adequate substitute.

According to the best analyses, the peroxide of iron is composed of—

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Iron .....   | 70    |
| Oxygen ..... | 30    |
|              | <hr/> |
|              | 100   |

These numbers correspond with two proportionals of metal to three of oxygen ; or with—

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1 proportional of Iron ..... | = 28  |
| 1½ ————— Oxygen .....        | = 12  |
|                              | <hr/> |
|                              | 40    |

### *Ferri Sulphas.*

R Ferri,  
Acidi sulphurici, singulorum *pondere* uncias octo,  
Aquæ octarios quatuor ;

Acidum sulphuricum cum Aqua in vase vitreo misce, hisque adjice Ferrum ; tum, ubi bullulæ exire cessaverint, liquorem per chartam cola, eumque ad ignem consume, adeò ut, dum frigescit, fiant crystalli. Has, effuso liquore, super chartam bibulam exsicca.

### *Sulphate of Iron.*

Take of Iron,  
Sulphuric Acid, of each, *by weight*, eight ounces,  
Water, four pints ;

Mix the sulphuric Acid with the Water in a glass vessel, and add the Iron to them ; then, when bubbles have ceased to escape, filter the solution through paper, and evaporate it so that crystals may form when it cools. Having poured off the liquor, dry these upon bibulous paper.

Iron has scarcely any action upon concentrated sulphuric acid at common temperatures, but upon the diluted acid it acts with great energy, the metal becomes protoxidized, and hydrogen gas is evolved, entirely at the expense of the water present, while the acid and oxide combine, and give rise to the production of a *protosulphate of iron*, which, by evaporating the filtered solution, is obtained in rhombic crystals, of a green colour, an extremely styptic taste, and soluble in about twice their weight of water at 60°. When exposed to air, they effloresce, and acquire a yellow colour, in consequence of the absorption of oxygen by the metallic protoxide.

Protoxide of iron consists of—

|                              |       |      |       |
|------------------------------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 proportional of Iron ..... | = 28  | .... | 77·55 |
| 1 ————— Oxygen .....         | = 8   | .... | 22·45 |
|                              | <hr/> |      | <hr/> |
|                              | 36    |      | 100   |

Dry protosulphate of iron is composed of—



|  |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|
| 1 proportional of Protoxide of Iron .. | = 36 | .... | 47.2 |
| 1 ————— Sulphuric Acid ...             | = 40 | .... | 52.8 |
|  | 76   |      | 100  |

and the crystallised salt contains—

|  |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|
| 1 proportional of dry Protosulphate .. | = 76 | .... | 54.7 |
| 7 ————— Water .... 9 × 7               | = 63 | .... | 45.3 |
|  | 139  |      | 100  |

When this salt is exposed to a moderate heat it loses water, and crumbles down into a white powder; distilled at a red heat, it suffers a complete decomposition; water is first evolved, then sulphurous acid and oxygen, and then sulphuric acid, partly anhydrous, and formerly known under the name of *glacial oil of vitriol*, from its property of solidifying at common temperatures<sup>1</sup>. The residue in the retort is peroxide of iron, formerly called *colcothar*, or *caput mortuum vitrioli*.

*Vitriol of Mars*, *green vitriol*, *copperas*, and *sal Martis*, are names by which this salt of iron was formerly known. It is of much importance in many of the arts, and a valuable chalybeate for medical use.

Sulphate of iron is not conveniently administered in solution, in consequence of the facility with which it is in that state decomposed: it is commonly given in pills, conjoined with aromatics to prevent its griping. The usual dose is from one to three grains, where chalybeates are indicated; if it nauseates and occasions spasmodic pains of the stomach and bowels, it is generally prudent to desist from its use, and resort to some other form of iron.

As a tonic, in scrofulous habits, it may be given with a course of bark.

R Ferri Sulphatis ℥j.  
Extract. Cinchonæ ʒj.

Divide in pilulas xv. una ter in die sumenda.

In amenorrhœa with bitter extracts, or with myrrh.

R Ferri Sulphatis gr. xij.  
Extracti Gentianæ ʒj.  
Pulveris Cinnamomi compositi ʒss.

Fiat massa in pilulas xvij. dividenda, quarum capiat ægra duas ter in die, superbibendo haustum infusi alicujus amari.

[Hooper.]

R Ferri Sulphatis ℥j.  
Pulv. Myrrhæ ʒj.  
Syrup. Simpl. q. s.

Fiat massa in pilulas xij. distribuenda. Sumatur una ter die.

<sup>1</sup> Bussy. Quarterly Journal, vol. xviii. p. 145.

The propriety of administering this and other preparations of iron, with vegetable astringents, has often been called in question; and they have been said to be incompatible with it, because they form inky mixtures: this arises generally from the production of a *tanno-gallate of iron*, which may nevertheless be, and I believe is, a good and effective chalybeate. It has already been said that infusion of quassia may be administered with the salts of iron, without any ensuing decomposition; so may infusion of calumba: those bitters therefore are perhaps preferable, in cases where iron is given in solution, to those which contain astringent matter.

As an external application, sulphate of iron is of doubtful value. Its solution has been applied to cancerous sores and ill-conditioned ulcers<sup>1</sup>. It has also been used in *fluor albus* in the proportion of  $\text{ʒiv}$ . dissolved in  $\text{f}\text{ʒviii}$ . of distilled water.

### *Ferrum Tartarizatum.*

**R** Ferri libram,  
Potassæ Supertartratis contritæ  
libras duas,  
Aquæ destillatæ octarios quinque,  
vel quantum satis sit;

Ferrum et Potassæ Supertartratē simul tere, et in vase vitreo patulo cum Aquæ octario per dies viginti aëri expone, quotidie agitans, adjectâ subindē Aquâ destillatâ ut semper humida sint. Dein cum Aquæ destillatæ octariis quatuor coque per quadrantem horæ, et cola. Liquorem balneo aquoso consume donec Ferrum tartarizatum penitus exsiccatum sit. Hoc in pulverem tere, et vase bene obturato serva.

### *Tartarised Iron.*

Take of Iron, a pound,  
Supertartrate of Potassa, in  
powder, two pounds,  
Distilled Water, five pints, or  
a sufficient quantity;

Triturate the Iron and the Supertartrate of Potassa together, and expose them to the air with a pint of the Water in a shallow glass vessel for twenty days, stirring them daily, and occasionally adding distilled Water, so that they may be always moist. Then boil them in four pints of the distilled Water for a quarter of an hour, and filter. Evaporate the filtered liquor in a water-bath, until the tartarised Iron becomes quite dry. Reduce this to powder, and keep it in a well-stopped vessel.

The first part of this process is calculated to furnish a good preparation of iron, but the boiling and evaporation to dryness partly decompose the original product, and the "ferrum tartarizatum" ultimately obtained is a product very rarely prescribed and of little use. It is, however, a considerable improvement upon the formula of the last Pharmacopœia.

<sup>1</sup> Edinb. Med. and Surg. Journal, vol. ii. p. 373.



*Ferrum tartarizatum*, which is in fact a *pertartrate of iron and potassa*, should be prepared in solution. According to Mr. R. Phillips<sup>1</sup>, sixty-four parts of tartar are capable of dissolving fifteen parts of iron-filings when exposed and moistened as above directed. The moist mass may be digested in seven times its weight of water, and the solution filtered: it contains about an eighth of its weight of tartarised iron, and as it is nearly tasteless, it may sometimes perhaps be useful, especially for children.

The tartarised iron of the Pharmacopœia may be used in the form of pills; it becomes too moist by exposure to air to be conveniently employed as an ingredient in powders, but it may be prescribed in solution, and is not very easily decomposed by many of those substances which are incompatible with the simple salts of iron. The usual dose is from ten to twenty grains. It does not appear to possess any distinct diuretic power, which has sometimes been attributed to it; but like other chalybeates it may be conjoined, as a tonic, with the diuretic remedies generally prescribed in dropsical affections.

Several preparations of iron corresponding in some measure with the above are found in old dispensatories, such, for instance, as the *tinctura Martis aperiens* of Glauber, and the *tinctura ferri cydoniata, citrata, aurantiaca, pomata, &c.* The *tinctura acetatis ferri* of the Dublin Pharmacopœia may also be mentioned here; but all these preparations have been very properly put aside as useless; a *liquor ferri tartarisati* might have been conveniently retained as their general substitute.

A very excellent *prototartrate of iron* for medical use may be made by digesting soft iron filings in a solution of tartaric acid; it is a whitish granular powder, containing about 13 per cent. of water, and requiring between 400 and 500 parts of water for its solution.

### *Liquor Ferri Alkalini.*

R Ferri drachmas duas cum semisse,  
Acidi nitrici fluiduncias duas,  
Aquæ destillatæ fluiduncias sex,  
  
Liquoris Potassæ Subcarbonatis  
fluiduncias sex;  
  
Ferro superinfunde Acidum et

### *Solution of Alkaline Iron.*

Take of Iron, two drachms and a half,  
Nitric Acid, two fluidounces,  
Distilled Water, six fluid-  
ounces,  
Solution of Subcarbonate of  
Potassa, six fluidounces;  
  
Pour the Acid and Water, previously

<sup>1</sup> Experimental Examination of the Pharm. Lond. 1811.

Aquam inter se mista; tum, ubi bullulæ exire cessaverint, liquorem adhuc acidum effunde. Hunc, paulatim et ex intervallis, Liquori Potassæ Subcarbonatis adjice, subindè agitans, donec, facto jam calore fusco-rubicundo, bullulæ nullæ ampliùs excitentur. Denique seponere per horas sex, et liquorem effunde.

mixed, upon the iron; then, when bubbles have ceased to escape, pour off the acid liquor; add this gradually and at intervals to the solution of Subcarbonate of Potassa, occasionally stirring, until, it having assumed a brown-red colour, effervescence is no longer excited. Lastly, set it aside for six hours, and pour off the solution.

“It is a very injudicious preparation; for it cannot be exhibited in any form without decomposition.” We entirely agree with Dr. Paris in the first part of this opinion, and that practitioners generally are of the same mind is evident, inasmuch as they never prescribe it, a circumstance alone amply sufficient to have justified its omission from the present edition of the Pharmacopœia. It is not, as sometimes represented, Stahl’s *tinctura Martis alkalina*, nor have I been able to ascertain who is the author of the formula.

In respect to the chemical composition of this “liquor ferri alkalini,” I refer the reader to Mr. R. Phillips<sup>1</sup>, who has thrown all the light upon the subject that it seems to admit of, especially in his elaborate remarks upon the subject in the “Experimental Examination” published in 1811.

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*Tinctura Ferri Ammoniati.*      *Tincture of Ammoniated Iron.*

R Ferri ammoniati uncias quatuor,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarium;  
Macera, et cola.

Take of ammoniated Iron, four ounces,  
Proof Spirit, a pint;  
Digest, and filter.

The term “liquor ferri ammoniati” would perhaps have been more applicable to this solution of *ferrum ammoniatum* in diluted alcohol. As its active ingredient is of very uncertain composition and of very doubtful efficacy, the only remark which we have to make upon the above tincture is the impropriety of retaining it, in consequence of its variable strength. Mr. Phillips examined three samples of it from different sources, and found that the strongest contained less than four grains of peroxide of iron in a fluidounce and a half; and the weakest, little more than one grain in the same bulk. It should be a leading object with the compilers of a Pharmacopœia to reject all uncertain and comparatively useless for-

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<sup>1</sup> Trans. of the London Pharmacopœia, p. 103.



mulæ. The *tinctura ferri ammoniati* might safely have been left for the extemporaneous prescription of such as put faith in its virtues.

### *Tinctura Ferri Muriatis. Tincture of Muriate of Iron.*

R Ferri Subcarbonatis libram dimidiam,  
Acidi muriatici octarium,  
Spiritus rectificati octarios tres ;

Ferri Subcarbonati superinfunde Acidum in vase vitreo, et per triduum subindè agita. Sepone, ut fæces, si quæ sint, subsidant; dein liquorem effunde, eique adjice Spiritum.

Take of Subcarbonate of Iron, half a pound,  
Muriatic Acid, a pint,  
Rectified Spirit, three pints ;

Pour the Acid upon the Subcarbonate of Iron in a glass vessel, and shake the mixture occasionally, for three days. Set it by, so that the dregs, if any, may subside; then pour off the liquor, and add the Spirit to it.

This is an unexceptionable process for preparing one of the most valuable chalybeates of pharmacy. The specific gravity of the solution should be about 998 to 1000, and the fluid-ounce should contain about thirty-four grains of peroxide of iron. It has a slightly ethereal odour, a deep olive-yellow colour, and very astringent taste. It is not liable to spontaneous changes, which is the case with many of the other preparations of iron, especially those which contain the protoxide.

As a tonic, from five to thirty drops may be taken twice a day in a wine-glass of water. In dyspepsia, small doses are generally more serviceable than larger ones, and it may be given in any bitter infusion, those being generally selected which are not blackened by it.

R Tincturæ Ferri Muriatis ℥vj.

Infusi Quassiaë,

Aquæ Cinnam. ʒʒ f ʒvj.

Tincturæ Calumbæ, f ʒj.

M. fiat haustus mane et meridiè sumendus.

The dose may gradually be augmented if necessary to 30 drops, but it is apt in larger doses to produce headach, to harden the pulse, and occasion slight spasmodic pains of the stomach and bowels. If it constipates, a drachm of sulphate of magnesia may be added to each draught. If it produces diarrhœa, the bowels should be cleared with a little rhubarb

and magnesia, and it may then be resumed generally without ill effect.

As a tonic after diseases of debility or depletion of the system, it requires, as well as the other preparations of iron, considerable circumspection in its use; if it induces no local inflammatory action or headach, and neither hardens the pulse, nor materially quickens it, it often proves eminently active in restoring tone to the constitution.

With aloetics and antispasmodics it is not an ineffective emmenagogue, though not upon the whole so well calculated to fulfil this particular indication as some of the other chalybeates. It may be given as follows:—

R Tinct. Ferri Muriatis,  
Tinct. Aloes compos.  
Tinctur. Valerianæ, aa f̄ss.

M. sumatur cochleare unum minimum ex infusi anthemidis  
cyatho, bis vel ter quotidie.

Like other chalybeates it sometimes expels worms from the intestines. It is used as a styptic in internal hæmorrhages. In scrofulous affections it is a most valuable tonic, especially when it can be given in large doses. Mr. Thomson recommends the dose in these cases to be gradually increased up to 120 drops twice a day.

In retention of urine depending upon spasmodic stricture of the urethra, this solution of iron has been represented as having something like a specific action. Five or six drops have been recommended in such cases by Mr. Cline, every ten minutes, until nausea is produced.

As an external application the "*tinctura ferri muriatis*" has been applied to cancerous and other very ill-conditioned sores, but not with any marked success.

There is a curious preparation of iron known in Germany under the name of "*BESTUSCHEFF'S nervous tincture*," the secret of which was purchased and published by the Empress Catharine of Russia. It has a place in the Parisian Codex under the name of "*tinctura ætherea alcoholica de muriate ferri*," and is sometimes known as "*La Motte's golden drops*." The following is Klaproth's formula for its preparation, from the Prussian Pharmacopœia:—

R Ferri pulverati, quantum vis:

Solve in

Acidi Muriatici sufficienti quantitate, cum Acidi Nitrici quarta parte mixta, et evapora. Massam siccam in cellam sepone, ut in liquorem coloris fusci saturati deliquescat.

Liquorem acceptum misce cum



Ætheris Sulphurici duplo, conquassando. Ætherem hoc modo ferro soluto impregnatum, separa, et cum Spiritûs Vini rectificatissimi duplo misce. Mixtum in vitris oblongis, bene obturatis, radiis solis tamdiu expone donec color omnis evanuerit. Tum sollicitè serva.

*Vinum Ferri.*

R Ferri drachmam,  
Potassæ Supertartratis contritæ  
drachmas sex,  
Aquæ destillatæ octarios duos, vel  
quantum satis sit,  
Spiritûs tenuioris fluiduncias vi-  
ginti;

Ferrum et Potassæ Supertartratem simul tere, et in vase vitreo patulo cum Aquæ fluidunciâ per hebdomadas sex aëri expone, spathâ quotidie movens, adjectâ subindè Aquâ destillatâ ut semper humida sint. Dein leni calore exsicca, in pulverem tere, et cum Aquæ destillatæ fluidunciis triginta misce. Liquorem cola, et colato Spiritum adjice.

*Wine of Iron.*

Take of Iron, a drachm,  
Supertartrate of Potassa, in  
powder, six drachms,  
Distilled Water, two pints, or  
a sufficient quantity,  
Proof Spirit, twenty fluid-  
ounces;

Rub the Iron and the Supertartrate of Potassa together, and expose the mixture to the air for six weeks, in a shallow glass vessel, with one fluidounce of the Water, stirring it daily with a spatula, and occasionally adding distilled Water, so that it may be always moist. Then dry by a gentle heat, reduce it to powder, and mix it with thirty fluid-ounces of the distilled Water. Filter the solution, and, when filtered, add the Spirit.

In this, as in the process for “ferrum tartarizatum,” mischief is done by drying the pertartrate of iron, a portion of which is thus rendered insoluble; when the spirit is added to the solution, another portion is precipitated, and accordingly there is less iron in the present than in the former *vinum ferri*, in the proportion, according to Mr. R. Phillips, of 16 to 22. But this is a matter of little importance in comparison with the change in the nature of the preparation, which is now so unlike the *steel wine* of all former Pharmacopœiæ. If there be any grounds for preferring a potassa-tartrate to other salts of iron, a vinous preparation may be made by dissolving the moist tartarised iron in white wine, but such a solution, when kept, always suffers more or less decomposition. The following has been proposed as a convenient substitute for the old steel wine:—

R Tinctur. Ferri Muriatis, f3j.  
Vini albi Hispan. f3xv. M.

But this mixture either is at first, or becomes turbid from the deposition of tartrate of iron.

Vinous solutions of iron are chiefly intended for the use of children of weak and rickety constitution, especially where a tendency to scrofula is manifest ; in such cases a teaspoonful of the old *vinum ferri*<sup>1</sup> twice or thrice a day often proves a valuable auxiliary to other remedial means. In these cases alkaline medicines are often properly conjoined with chalybeates ; and the only preparation of iron which well admits of combination with the alkaline carbonates, and is not decomposed by them, is the solution of *ferrum tartarizatum* ; this, with other reasons, suggests the expediency of introducing a proper solution of that triple salt of iron into the Pharmacopœia, but the old *steel wine* should also be retained.

## PREPARATIONS OF MERCURY.

### *Hydrargyrum cum Creta.*

R Hydrargyri purificati *pondere uncias tres,*  
Cretæ preparatæ uncias quinque ;  
Tere simul, donec globuli non amplius conspiciantur.

### *Mercury with Chalk.*

Take of purified Mercury, *by weight,*  
three ounces,  
Prepared Chalk, five ounces ;  
Rub them together until globules are no longer visible.

By triturating mercury with chalk a very small portion of the metal becomes converted into protoxide ; the remainder is very minutely divided, and thus perhaps acquires some activity as a mercurial when taken into the stomach.

Different opinions are entertained respecting the utility of this mercurial ; some practitioners maintain that it has no efficacy, and others consider it as an effective and peculiar, though very mild remedy. There are cases in which *very small doses* of blue pill (a quarter of a grain to a grain) are productive of beneficial effects, and such cases are suited to this preparation, which may be taken in doses of from five grains up to twenty or thirty with much the same effect as very minute doses of more active preparations of the metal. Otherwise it has no peculiar merits. The beneficial effect of very minute doses of mercury, where the usual mode of administering it produces bad consequences, as is very frequently the

<sup>1</sup> R Limaturæ Ferri, ʒij.

Vini albi Hispan. oct. ij.

Digere per dies quatuordecim et cola per chartam.



case in that stage of dyspepsia which is attended by disordered bilious secretion, has been well pointed out by Dr. W. Philip<sup>1</sup>. As far as respects the remedy we are now considering, if the question to be determined by the practitioner is, whether he will prefer giving five to ten grains of *hydrargyrum cum creta*, to half a grain or a grain of the *pilula hydrargyri*; he will probably decide in favour of the latter, which is more certain in its action. Upon the principle adverted to it is, that *hydrargyrum cum creta* is justly esteemed as a means of correcting the biliary secretion in children, and especially of increasing it when deficient in quantity, and the stools are clay-coloured or white. The extreme mildness, or little comparative activity of this mercurial, generally requires that its use should be continued for some time; the same observation applies to very small doses of blue pill; but the beneficial effects which result are often more permanent than when larger doses are employed; and not unfrequently the latter fail or are only temporarily successful, while the former succeed in restoring a more permanent healthy action.

The chalk in the above preparation plays a very unimportant part; its only effect is that of an antacid, but we have no evidence shewing that mercurials are increased in activity by an acid state of the stomach; and if it were so, the proportion of chalk given in the usual dose of *hydrargyrum cum creta* is too small to be taken into account.

In tabes and atrophía of children, and in some of their cutaneous affections, this mercurial has been preferred to others as an alterative; in these and all other cases the very varying susceptibility of different constitutions to the effects of mercury must not be lost sight of; and when the gums become even very slightly affected, it should either be suspended or the dose diminished.

### *Hydrargyri Nitrico-Oxydum.*

### *Nitrico-Oxide of Mercury.*

℞ Hydrargyri purificati *pondere* libras tres,  
Acidi Nitrici *pondere* libram cum semisse,  
Aquæ destillatæ octarios duos;

Take of purified Mercury, *by weight*, three pounds,  
Nitric Acid, *by weight*, a pound and a half,  
Distilled Water, two pints;

<sup>1</sup> Treatise on Indigestion, 4th edit. p. 246.

Misce in vase vitreo, et coque, donec liquetur Hydrargyrum, et, Aquâ consumptâ, materia alba restet. Hanc tere in pulverem, et in vas aliud quàm minimè profundum conjice; tum ignem lenem adhibe, eumque paulatim auge, donec vapor ruber prodire cessaverit.

Mix them in a glass vessel, and boil until, the Mercury being dissolved and the Water evaporated, a white substance remains. Rub this to powder, and put it into a very shallow vessel; then expose it to a moderate fire, gradually increased until red vapour ceases to escape.

In the first part of this process a pernitrate of mercury is formed, which is then decomposed by heat. It is very difficult so to apply the heat, as to expel the whole of the acid, without at the same time evolving oxygen from the remaining oxide and evaporating part of the mercury. We find therefore a small portion of nitric acid generally remaining in the compound. The nitrate requires to be constantly stirred during the process, which is generally performed in a cast-iron pot; the operator will find it advantageous to prepare the solution and partly to evaporate it in a retort with an annexed receiver containing a little water, by which, if any quantity of materials is employed, he will save a part of the acid.

The resulting nitrico-oxide of mercury is of a brilliant red colour, with a shade of orange; when not in very fine powder it has a glistening scaly appearance; at a red heat it is decomposed and entirely dissipated, provided it be not adulterated, as it sometimes is, with red-lead; it has an acrid taste, is very sparingly soluble in water, and readily soluble without effervescence in nitric acid. The proportion of subpernitrate of mercury remaining in this preparation is variable; but some is always to be detected, for when decomposed by heat, the evolved oxygen is found to be mixed with a portion of nitrogen; it therefore should never be used as a substitute for pure peroxide of mercury. When washed with and triturated in a dilute solution of potassa, edulcorated with distilled water, and carefully dried, it may be regarded as a nearly pure peroxide of mercury. In this state it is called *arcanum corallinum* in some of the older Pharmacopœiæ<sup>1</sup>.

Nitrico-oxide of mercury is only employed as an external application, either alone, finely levigated, or mixed with ointment.—(See *Unguentum hydrargyri nitrico-oxydi*.)

Sprinkled upon the surface of old or indolent sores, it not unfrequently stimulates them to more healthy actions; sometimes it excites excessive irritation, and may then be diluted with two or three parts of starch, flour, or any analogous inert matter. It is sometimes used as an escharotic mixed with powdered savine, burnt alum and various stimulants; and

<sup>1</sup> Disp. Boruss. Brand. 1731.



mixed with eight or ten parts of finely-powdered sugar, is one of the remedies which some oculists direct to be blown upon the eye for the removal of specks in the cornea.

*Hydrargyri Oxydum  
Cinereum.*

R Hydrargyri Submuriatis unciam,

Liquoris Calcis congium;

Hydrargyri Submuriatem in Liquore Calcis coque, assidue movens, donec Oxydum Hydrargyri cinereum subsidat. Hoc Aquâ destillatâ lava; deinde exsicca.

*Grey Oxide of Mercury.*

Take of Submuriate of Mercury, an ounce.

Lime Water, a gallon;

Boil the Submuriate of Mercury in the Lime Water, constantly stirring, until the grey Oxide of Mercury subsides. Wash this with distilled Water; then dry it.

It is scarcely necessary to enter in detail into the objectionable parts of this process, as the preparation which it affords is never used: it may, however, be right to observe, that the action of lime-water upon calomel is very much influenced by the mechanical state of the latter, which, unless in a state of extreme division, is only superficially acted upon: a mixture, therefore, of calomel and *black* oxide of mercury is usually found in the shops, under the name of "grey oxide of mercury." Sometimes the decomposition is more complete, and a perfectly black powder is the first result, but this soon changes to an olive colour of variable shades. In this case a very minute portion of metallic mercury makes its appearance, and the superfluous oxygen converts a portion of the *black* into *red* oxide of mercury. The extent to which this change goes, influences the colour of the product, and often leads to the unjust suspicion of the existence of corrosive sublimate in the calomel employed. Although the quantity of lime directed in the process (supposing the lime-water to be good) may be enough for the decomposition of the calomel, the diluteness of the solution seems to prevent its action, and this is another cause of the presence of unchanged calomel in the product: carbonate of lime will also generally be found in it, obviously derived from the necessary exposure of the lime-water to air.

The indefinite composition of this preparation is sufficient reason for excluding it from pharmacy; the *hydrargyrum cum creta* and the *pilulæ hydrargyri* are substitutes for it, applicable in all cases where protoxide of mercury is required.

A mixture of calomel and lime-water, in variable propor-

tions, has long been used in surgery, under the name of *grey* or *black lotion*: it is often a soothing application to irritable sores and surfaces.

The nature of the mutual action of lime-water and calomel will be found under the head "*hydrargyri submurias*."

*Hydrargyri Oxydum  
Rubrum.*

*Red Oxide of Mercury.*

R Hydrargyri purificati *pondere* libram;

Immitte Hydrargyrum in vas vitreum altum, cui os angustum, et fundus latior sit. Vasi huic aperto calorem gradûs 600<sup>mi</sup> adhibe, donec Hydrargyrum in squamas rubras abierit; dein in pulverem subtilissimum tere.

Take of purified Mercury, *by weight*, a pound;

Put the Mercury into a tall glass vessel with a narrow mouth and broad bottom. Expose this vessel, open, to a temperature of 600° until the Mercury is converted into red scales; then rub them to a very fine powder.

This is the *hydrargyrum præcipitatum per se*, and *hydrargyrum calcinatum* of the older Pharmacopœiæ; the mercury being heated nearly to its boiling point, slowly saturates itself with the oxygen of the air, which is freely admitted, and becomes converted into a peroxide, composed of—

|                                 |         |            |       |            |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------|-------|------------|
| 1 proportional of Mercury ..... | =       | 200        | ....  | 92.6       |
| 2 ————— Oxygen .....            | 8 × 2 = | 16         | ..... | 7.4        |
|                                 |         | <u>216</u> |       | <u>100</u> |

It is curious in respect to this oxide, that the range of temperature requisite for its formation falls little short of that which effects its decomposition, for at a dull red heat it gives out the oxygen which it had previously absorbed. It is generally produced in minute scales and crystalline grains of a brilliant crimson colour, which when heated become black, and gradually resume their original hue on cooling. When in fine powder, the colour of this oxide inclines to orange. It has a slightly metallic taste, is sparingly soluble in water, readily soluble in nitric acid, and should be entirely volatilised by a red heat.

The mischievous qualities of this oxide, when taken internally, have already been adverted to (p. 121); and notwithstanding the high authority which once sanctioned its use as an antivenereal remedy, it seems justly laid aside by the most eminent of our present practitioners. It is true that its tendency to nauseate, gripe, and purge, may, to a great ex-



tent, be prevented by combination with opium; but all that can in this way be obtained from it, may be derived from other safer mercurials. If ever employed, it should be as an alterative, in very small doses, such as an eighth of a grain night and morning: it has been given, but not without much danger, and often with decidedly virulent effect, in two and three grain doses.

As an escharotic and stimulant application to sores, it is sometimes employed as being milder in effect than the nitrico-oxide, and in the same way. For these purposes it should be reduced to the finest state of powder, and either sprinkled in substance upon the diseased surface, or applied in the form of ointment, or diffused through water thickened with a little mucilage of gum arabic.

### *Hydrargyri Oxymurias. Oxymuriate of Mercury.*

℞ Hydrargyri purificati *pondere* libras duas,  
Acidi Sulphurici *pondere* uncias triginta,  
Sodæ Muriatæ exsiccatae libras quatuor;

Hydrargyrum cum Acido Sulphurico in vase vitreo coque, donec Hydrargyri Sulphas exsiccata fuerit; hanc, ubi refrixerit, cum Sodæ Muriate in mortario fictili contere; tum ex cucurbitâ vitreâ, calore sensim aucto, sublima.

Take of purified Mercury, *by weight*,  
two pounds,  
Sulphuric Acid, *by weight*,  
thirty ounces,  
Dried Muriate of Soda, four  
pounds;

Boil the Mercury with the Sulphuric Acid in a glass vessel, until the Sulphate of Mercury is dry. Rub this, when it is cold, with the Muriate of Soda in an earthenware mortar; then sublime from a glass cucurbit, by heat gradually increased.

The first step in this process is the formation of a dry *persulphate of mercury*; that is, of a salt composed of sulphuric acid and peroxide of mercury, and containing, in its perfect state,—

|   |                                     |       |   |     |      |     |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------|---|-----|------|-----|
| 1 | proportional of Peroxide of Mercury | ....  | = | 216 | .... | 73  |
| 2 | ————— Sulphuric Acid                | ..... | = | 80  | .... | 27  |
|   |                                     |       |   | 296 |      | 100 |

This persulphate is then thoroughly mixed with chloride of sodium (common salt), called in the above formula *muriate of soda*, which is composed of—

|                                |           |      |            |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------|------------|
| 1 proportional of Sodium ..... | = 24      | .... | 40         |
| 1 ————— Chlorine .....         | = 36      | .... | 60         |
|                                | <u>60</u> |      | <u>100</u> |

Upon the application of heat to this mixture, the original substances are decomposed, *perchloride of mercury* (oxymuriate of mercury) sublimes, and sulphate of soda is the residue. The object then of the operation is to obtain a compound of *one* proportional of mercury and *two* of chlorine, which is effected by the mutual decomposition of *one* proportional of persulphate of mercury, =296, and *two* proportionals of chloride of sodium,  $60 \times 2 = 120$ , as shown in the following table:—

|   |  |  |                               |                |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------|----------------|---|--|--|
|   | Perchloride of Mercury.<br>272   |  |                               |                |   |  |  |
|   | <table> <tr> <td>Mercury<br/>00</td> <td>Chlorine<br/>72</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">           Sulphuric Acid 80<br/>           +<br/>           Oxygen 16 + Sodium 48         </td> </tr> </table> |  | Mercury<br>00                 | Chlorine<br>72 | Sulphuric Acid 80<br>+<br>Oxygen 16 + Sodium 48 |  |  |
| Mercury<br>00                                   | Chlorine<br>72   |  |                               |                |   |  |  |
| Sulphuric Acid 80<br>+<br>Oxygen 16 + Sodium 48 |  |  |                               |                |   |  |  |
| 296<br>Persulphate of<br>Mercury.               |  |  | 120<br>Chloride of<br>Sodium. |                |   |  |  |
|   | Sulphate of Soda<br>144.   |  |                               |                |   |  |  |

The results, therefore, are, *two* proportionals of sulphate of soda, = 144, and *one* proportional of perchloride of mercury, = 272, consisting of—

|                                |                    |      |            |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------|------------|
| 1 proportional of Mercury..... | = 200              | .... | 73.52      |
| 2 ————— Chlorine.....          | $36 \times 2 = 72$ | .... | 26.48'     |
|                                | <u>272</u>         |      | <u>100</u> |

The persulphate of mercury is generally prepared upon the large scale, by heating the acid and metal in an iron pot, proper means being adopted to carry off the copious fumes of sulphurous acid arising from the decomposition of a portion of the sulphuric acid, during the peroxidizement of the mercury. The whole is then evaporated to dryness, and the subsequent sublimation is performed in glass, earthenware, or iron vessels, their form and arrangement being much dependent upon the quantity of materials employed.

As the only demonstrable components of perchloride of mercury are chlorine and mercury, the impropriety of the term "*hydrargyri oxymurias*," applied to it in the Pharma-

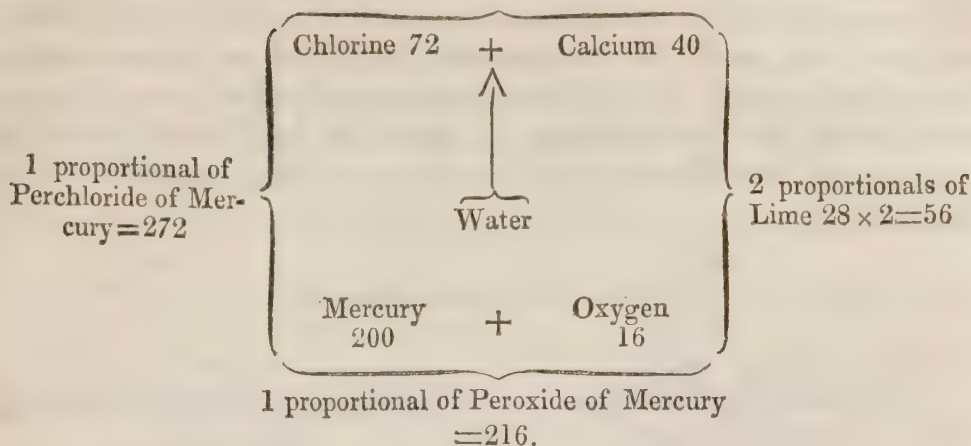


copœiæ, is obvious ; for it neither contains oxygen nor muriatic acid. To the erroneous views in which this term originated, it is not necessary now to allude ; nor shall I recur to those masterly researches of Sir H. Davy which first taught us to suspect their correctness, and afterwards completely exposed their fallacy : the compound before us ought obviously to be termed *perchloridum hydrargyri* ; but perhaps, as for pharmaceutical purposes it is often very inconvenient to adopt a correct philosophical nomenclature, the old term *hydrargyrum corrosivum sublimatum*, or CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE, would have been most prudently and conveniently retained.

Corrosive sublimate has an acrid nauseous taste, leaving a permanent metallic and astringent flavour upon the tongue. Its specific gravity is 5·2. It is usually met with in the shops in the form of white semitransparent and imperfectly crystallised masses, or in powder. It frequently exhibits prismatic crystals upon the inner surfaces of the sublimed masses. It is soluble in twenty parts of water, at the temperature of 60°, and boiling water takes up about one-third its weight : alcohol at 60° dissolves half its weight, and ether, at the same temperature, about one-third its weight. When heated, it readily and entirely sublimes in the form of a dense white vapour, powerfully affecting the nose and mouth. It dissolves without decomposition in muriatic acid, but is insoluble in concentrated nitric and sulphuric acids. Muriatic acid of the specific gravity 1·158, at the temperature of 60° dissolves about its own weight, and the solution, when cooled to about 40°, concretes into a mass of acicular crystals.

When solutions of potassa, soda, or lime, are mixed with solution of corrosive sublimate, a yellow precipitate is thrown down, which is a hydrated peroxide of mercury. Such a mixture of a pint of lime-water with a drachm of corrosive sublimate was formerly much used as an application to venereal ulcers, under the name of "*aqua phagadænica*." It is, in fact, a solution of chloride of calcium (muriate of lime) mixed with peroxide of mercury, *two* proportionals of lime being required for the decomposition of *one* proportional of corrosive sublimate, as shewn in the following diagram, which also exhibits the theory of the decomposition :—

2 proportionals of Chloride of Calcium  
 $56 \times 2 = 112.$



When solution of corrosive sublimate is decomposed by ammonia, the result is not peroxide of mercury, but a white precipitate, which is composed of muriate of ammonia and peroxide of mercury.—(See *Hydrargyrum Præcipitatum Album*.)

Muriate of ammonia considerably increases the solubility of corrosive sublimate, one part rendering five parts soluble in rather less than five of water. Such solutions have occasionally been introduced into Pharmacopœiæ, and are useful for the internal exhibition of corrosive sublimate. Boerhaave's solution had a place in the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia of the year 1783 : it was composed as follows :—

℞ Mercurii Sublimati Corrosivi gr. vj.  
 Salis Ammoniaci gr. xij. Solve in  
 Aquæ destillatæ libra una.

The solubility of corrosive sublimate is also much increased by common salt. A solution composed of 7 parts of salt and 20 of water dissolves 32 parts of corrosive sublimate ; it deposits rhomboidal crystals, probably composed of 1 proportional of each of the chlorides<sup>1</sup>.

Corrosive sublimate is decomposed by several of the metals : they generally abstract half the chlorine, and convert it into calomel.

The medical properties and uses of corrosive sublimate have already been partially described (page 122), and some further observations will be found under the next article. Its virulently poisonous qualities are well known : where designedly or inadvertently taken in over-doses, the most effective remedy is white of egg mixed with water, of which copious draughts should be swallowed frequently ; for albumen has the property

<sup>1</sup> J. Davy. Phil. Trans. 1822, p. 364.



of decomposing corrosive sublimate, and converting it into calomel, while it is at the same time harmless to the stomach.

The means of detecting corrosive sublimate will be sufficiently evident from such of its chemical qualities as have already been dwelt upon; but in examinations after death, or of matter thrown up by vomiting, it must be recollected that the contents of the stomach and bowels sometimes change it into calomel <sup>1</sup>.

*Liquor Hydrargyri  
Oxymuriatis.*

R Hydrargyri Oxymuriatis grana octo,  
Aquæ destillatæ fluiduncias quin-  
decim;  
Spiritus rectificati fluidunciam;

Hydrargyri Oxymuriatem in Aqua  
destillata liqua, eique adjice Spiritum.

*Solution of Oxymuriate of  
Mercury.*

Take of Oxymuriate of Mercury, eight  
grains,  
Distilled Water, fifteen fluid-  
ounces,  
Rectified Spirit, a fluidounce;

Dissolve the Oxymuriate of Mercury  
in the distilled Water, and add the  
Spirit to it.

The object of this solution is to furnish a convenient means of subdividing corrosive sublimate into small doses for internal use: but it unfortunately happens that aqueous solutions of corrosive sublimate, unless very cautiously excluded from the light, suffer a decomposition; they deposit calomel, and traces of free muriatic and chloric acids are found in the water. This decomposition, as appears from Dr. Davy's evidence <sup>2</sup>, is accelerated by the addition of a small quantity of alcohol to the water: in other words, it would be more rapid in the above "*liquor hydrargyri oxymuriatis*," than in a mere aqueous solution: on the contrary, it is found that the decomposition is entirely prevented by the presence of muriate of ammonia, or of common salt; hence, in the formula already given, we have suggested the use of a solution of corrosive sublimate, to which a little sal ammoniac is added.

The above solution (containing half a grain of corrosive sublimate in the fluidounce) would be rendered unexceptionable by the addition of eight grains of muriate of ammonia: in its present form it is liable to deposit calomel, and consequently to vary in strength; a most important objection in the

<sup>1</sup> See Orfila, tom. i. part 1. p. 100.

<sup>2</sup> Phil. Trans. 1822, p. 365.

use of so powerful a remedy, and one which, in fact, renders its employment inadmissible<sup>1</sup>.

### *Hydrargyrum Præcipitatum Album.*

R Hydrargyri Oxymuriatis libram dimidiam,  
Ammoniæ Muriatis uncias quatuor,  
Liquoris Potassæ Subcarbonatis octarium dimidium,  
Aquæ destillatæ octarios quatuor;

Primò Ammoniæ Muriatem, dein Hydrargyri Oxymuriatem, in Aqua destillata liqua, et his adjice Liquorem Potassæ Subcarbonatis. Pulverem demissum lava, donec saporis expers fuerit; tum exsicca.

### *White Precipitated Mercury.*

Take of Oxymuriate of Mercury, half a pound,  
Muriate of Ammonia, four ounces,  
Solution of Subcarbonate of Potassa, half a pint,  
Distilled Water, four pints;

First dissolve the Muriate of Ammonia, then the Oxymuriate of Mercury, in the distilled Water; to these add the Solution of Subcarbonate of Potassa. Wash the precipitated powder until it becomes tasteless; then dry it.

In this process a compound of muriate of ammonia and corrosive sublimate is decomposed by subcarbonate of potassa, carbonic acid is evolved, and a precipitate is formed, consisting of peroxide of mercury in combination with muriate of ammonia. The proportions, according to Mr. Hennell's experiments<sup>2</sup>, are 80 peroxide of mercury + 20 muriate of ammonia, numbers which correspond with—

1 proportional of Peroxide of Mercury..... = 216

1 ————— Muriate of Ammonia ..... = 54

Equivalent of White Precipitate..... 270

This mercurial preparation is limited to external use.—(See *unguentum hydrargyri præcipitati albi*.) It is sometimes employed, either alone or mixed with a little powdered starch, for the destruction of vermin; this it effects without producing much cuticular irritation.

<sup>1</sup> Solutions and ointments of corrosive sublimate and white arsenic are effective and convenient applications for the destruction of bugs. The infested bedsteads should be taken to pieces, and every joint and crevice well anointed and brushed over with the following solution or ointment:—

Dissolve one ounce of corrosive sublimate in a pint of rectified spirit of wine, and add four ounces of linseed oil, and four ounces of oil of turpentine.

Reduce one ounce of corrosive sublimate and one of white arsenic to a fine powder; mix with it one ounce of sal ammoniac in powder, two ounces of oil of turpentine, two ounces of yellow wax, and eight ounces of olive oil: put these ingredients into a gallipot placed in a pan of boiling water, and when the wax is liquefied, stir the whole in a mortar till cold. To prevent accidents, the above composition should be distinctly labelled—BUG POISON.

<sup>2</sup> Quarterly Journal of Science, vol. xviii. p. 297.



*Hydrargyrum Purificatum.**Purified Mercury.*

Hydrargyrum in retortam ferream infunde, et, igne subjecto, destillet Hydrargyrum purificatum.

Pour Mercury into an iron retort, and, having subjected it to fire, let the purified Mercury be distilled.

Mercury, as it is met with in commerce, is generally extremely pure. In examining it in very large quantities, I have in one instance only found it intentionally adulterated, and then it contained lead, tin, and bismuth. The process, therefore, of re-distillation, supposing it effectual, is rarely requisite; but the attraction between mercury and the above-mentioned metals is so considerable, that, notwithstanding their inferior volatility, they pass over with its vapour; indeed the purification of mercury is not easily effected, and the principal attention of the pharmaceutical chemist should be directed to purchasing it pure in the market. Mercury which is impure is generally of a dull and dirty aspect, and easily tarnishes; it wants the fluidity and mobility of the pure metal; when shaken in a phial it soils or adheres to the glass; and agitated with very dilute sulphuric acid, the adulterating metals are rapidly oxidized, in consequence of a resulting electrical action. Lead is thus easily detected by shaking the sophisticated mercury with equal parts of acetic acid and water, pouring off the liquor, and testing it by a solution of sulphate of soda and of hydriodate of potassa; the former occasions a white, the latter a yellow precipitate.

Bismuth is discovered by dropping a nitric solution, prepared in the cold, into a large glass of distilled water, when a white precipitate is produced of subnitrate of bismuth: this is immediately rendered brown by sulphuretted hydrogen.

If this nitric solution contain tin, it affords, when diluted and tested by muriate of gold, a purple precipitate; and if zinc be present, carbonate of potassa occasions in it a white cloud, soluble in excess of the alkaline solution. The specific gravity of pure mercury is 13.54.

*Hydrargyri Submurias.**Submuriate of Mercury.*

℞ Hydrargyri purificati *pondere* libras quatuor,  
Acidi sulphurici *pondere* uncias triginta,  
Sodæ Muriatis libram cum semisse,  
Ammoniæ Muriatis uncias octo;

Take of purified Mercury, *by weight*, four pounds,  
Sulphuric Acid, *by weight*, thirty ounces,  
Muriate of Soda, a pound and a half,  
Muriate of Ammonia, eight ounces;

Hydrargyri libras duas cum Acido sulphurico in vase vitreo coque, donec Hydrargyri Sulphas exsiccata fuerit; hanc ubi refrixerit cum Hydrargyri libris duabus, in mortario fictili contere ut optimè misceantur. Dein Sodæ Muriatem adjice, et simul tere, donec globuli non ampliùs conspiciantur: tum sublima. Sublimatum in pulverem subtilissimum contere, per cribrum trans mitte, et cum Ammoniæ Muriate, in Aquæ destillatæ ferventis congio priùs liquefactâ, diligenter misce. Se pone ut subsidat pulvis. Liquorem ef funde, et pulverem Aquâ destillatâ fer vente sæpiùs ablue, donec Liquore Ammoniæ instillato nihil dejiciatur. Denique fiat pulvis subtilissimus, eodem modo quo Cretam præparari præcepi mus.

Boil two pounds of the Mercury with the Sulphuric Acid in a glass vessel, until the Sulphate of Mercury is dry. When it has cooled, rub it with two pounds of the Mercury in an earthen ware mortar, till they are well mixed. Then add the Muriate of Soda, and rub them together until globules are no longer visible. Then sublime. Re duce the Sublimate to a very fine pow der, pass it through a sieve, and mix it well with the Muriate of Ammonia pre viously dissolved in a gallon of boiling distilled Water. Set it by, that the powder may subside. Pour off the liquor and wash the powder frequently with boiling distilled Water, until So lution of Ammonia, dropped in, produces no precipitate. Lastly, reduce it to a very fine powder in the manner we have directed for the preparation of Chalk.

This process for the preparation of calomel has many advan tages over the method of the former Pharmacopœia. A per sulphate of mercury is first formed by boiling two pounds of the metal with 30 ounces of sulphuric acid to dryness. This process may be performed in the large way, in a cast-iron ves sel, which should be conveniently arranged for the escape of the abundant fumes of sulphurous acid developed by the action of the mercury, and which are often a serious nuisance to the neighbourhood. They may be very effectually annihilated by suffering them to pass through a very long flue and lofty chim ney, mixed with abundance of coal smoke. The *persulphate* of mercury is triturated with a sufficient quantity of metallic mercury to convert it into a *protosulphate*, and then mixed with a due proportion of common salt, and subjected to sublimation.

Protosulphate of mercury is a compound of—

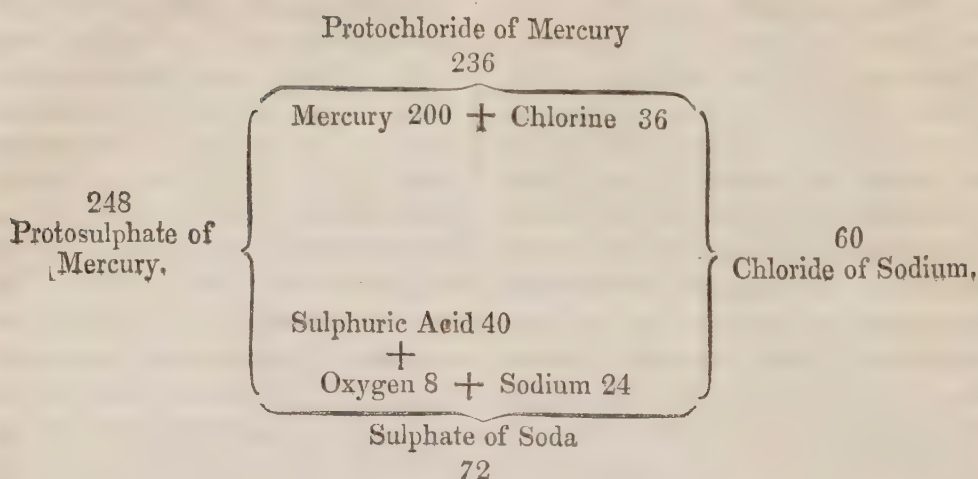
|  |   |     |       |      |
|--|---|-----|-------|------|
| 1 proportional of Protoxide of Mercury . . . . | = | 208 | ..... | 83·8 |
| 1 ————— Sulphuric Acid .....                   | = | 40  | ..... | 16·2 |
|  |   | 248 |       | 100  |

To convert it into calomel it requires *one* proportional of chloride of sodium (common salt), the nature of the action of which, and the proportions of results, will be evident from the following table, premising that calomel consists of—

|                                 |   |     |       |       |
|---------------------------------|---|-----|-------|-------|
| 1 proportional of Mercury ..... | = | 200 | ..... | 84·75 |
| 1 ————— Chlorine .....          | = | 36  | ..... | 15·25 |
|                                 |   | 236 |       | 100   |

it is, therefore, a *protochloride of mercury*.





In this decomposition, (as in that for the formation of corrosive sublimate,) the oxygen of the oxide of mercury (contained in the sulphate) is transferred to the *sodium* of the common salt, which thus becomes *soda*, and forms, with the sulphuric acid, a sulphate of soda.

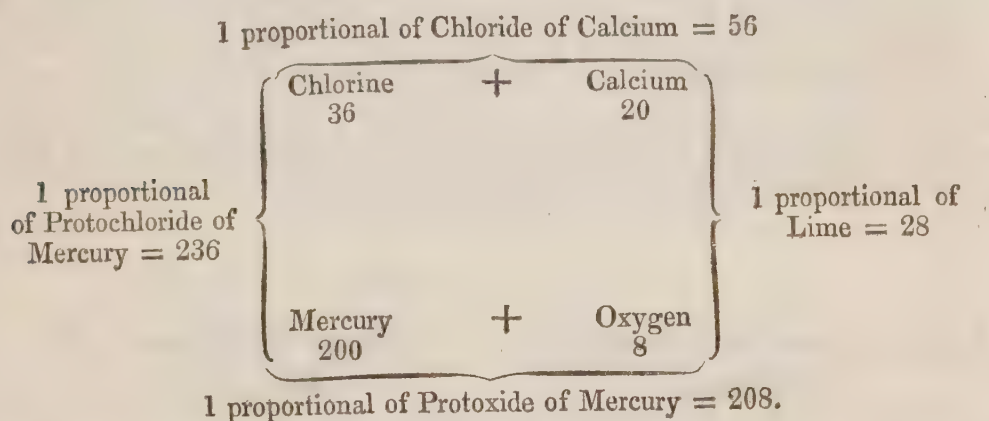
The further directions relate to the washing of the calomel in order to ensure the separation of any adhering corrosive sublimate, and to its reduction into the state of a very fine powder. In the elutriation, muriate of ammonia is employed in consequence of the extreme solubility which it confers on the perchloride of mercury; common salt answers equally well, and is cheaper, but it deserves notice, in relation to this part of the process, that calomel *boiled* with solution of sal-ammoniac or of common salt is resolved into metallic mercury and corrosive sublimate, the washings therefore should be with *cold* water, or with water not exceeding 80°, by which any such reaction is avoided. This important fact in regard to the purification of calomel was first pointed out to me by Mr. Hennell.

The form in which calomel sublimes depends upon the dimensions and temperature of the subliming vessels. In small vessels it generally condenses in a crystalline cake, the interior surface of which is often covered with beautiful quadrangular prismatic crystals, perfectly transparent, and of a texture somewhat elastic or horny; in this state it acquires, by the necessary rubbing into powder, a decidedly yellow or buff colour, more or less deep according to the degree of trituration which it has undergone. If, on the contrary, the calomel be sublimed into a very capacious and cold receiver, it falls in an almost impalpable and perfectly white powder, which only requires due elutriation to fit it for use; it then remains perfectly colourless. By a very obvious and simple modification of the process, it may be suffered as it sublimes

to fall into water, according to Mr. Jewell's patent ; but no equivalent advantage results from such mode of conducting the operation.

I have thought it right to state the above circumstances to account for the various appearances under which calomel occasionally presents itself in commerce : it may be added, that the buff aspect of this substance indicates the absence of corrosive sublimate ; though it by no means follows as a consequence, that when snow-white it contains it. When the surface of massive sublimed calomel is scratched, it always exhibits a buff colour.

Calomel should be perfectly tasteless, inodorous, and insoluble in water<sup>1</sup>. Its specific gravity is 7.2. It is decomposed by the fixed alkalies (see *hydrargyri oxydum cinereum*) and by ammonia, and protoxide of mercury is one of the results. The theory of this decomposition in the case where lime water is used, as opposed to that of corrosive sublimate under similar circumstances, is shown in the annexed diagram :—



Calomel, if not carefully washed, may, under some circumstances, contain a minute portion of corrosive sublimate ; it may be detected by boiling it in pure water, and adding to the filtered and cold liquor, a few drops of an aqueous and transparent solution of white of egg. A white cloud indicates the presence of the perchloride of mercury or corrosive sublimate. The mode of testing calomel for the presence of corrosive sublimate, by boiling it in a weak solution of muriate of ammonia, and then adding carbonate of potassa, is obviously fallacious, in consequence of the *production* of corrosive sublimate under such circumstances already adverted to.

<sup>1</sup> Calomel is sometimes stated to be soluble to a very small extent in water, but after very careful washing I have found that boiling water filtered through it is not in the least affected by solution of sulphuretted hydrogen, provided care be taken to avoid the mixture of any suspended calomel.



It cannot, I think, be denied that the best pharmaceutical term for protochloride of mercury is CALOMEL; it is short, open to no misconception, and is not, like the term *submuriate of mercury*, calculated to convey a very erroneous idea of the nature of the compound.

Beguin, in 1608, is the first European author who describes calomel; he calls it *draco mitigatus*; corrosive sublimate was known to the alchemists under the name of "the dragon." It appears, however, from Mr. Hatchett's experiments and observations on the calomel of Thibet, published in Nicholson's Journal for June 1803, that this substance had long been known to, and prepared by, the natives of that part of India. Among other whimsical names given to it by the older pharmaceutical chemists, are *aquila alba*, *panchymagogum minerale*, *panacea mercurialis*, *manna metallorum*, and *sublimatum dulce*. It was once customary to give it various names according as it had been more or less frequently sublimed, but it is now known that these repeated sublimations, so far from dulcifying, as was supposed, the product, tend rather to the decomposition of a part of it, and to the formation of perchloride of mercury. The subject of the medical uses of calomel has already been touched upon, under the article "Hydrargyrum," in the *Materia Medica*, (see page 121). Some other of its useful applications will be noticed under the subdivisions of this part of the work relating to powders and pills.

### *Hydrargyri Sulphuretum Nigrum.*

℞ Hydrargyri purificati *pondere* libram,  
Sulphuris sublimati libram;  
Tere simul, donec globuli non amplius conspiciantur.

### *Black Sulphuret of Mercury.*

Take of purified Mercury, *by weight*, a pound,  
Sublimed Sulphur, a pound;  
Rub them together until globules are no longer perceptible.

The nature of this compound has not hitherto been clearly defined; at all events it is not a "sulphuret of mercury," for the proportions of sulphur and mercury employed in its formation are such as, under any circumstances, to leave a considerable excess of the former. Assuming that a compound of one proportional of sulphur and one of mercury is formed by merely triturating mercury with sulphur at common temperatures, Mr. Phillips<sup>1</sup> considers this officinal preparation as consisting of—

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Protosulphuret of Mercury..... | 58    |
| Sulphur.....                   | 42    |
|                                | <hr/> |
|                                | 100   |

But the only true protosulphuret of mercury with which I am acquainted is that obtained by passing sulphuretted hydrogen through a very dilute solution of protonitrate of mercury; it then falls in the form of a dense black powder; at a red heat it gives off metallic mercury, and cinnabar sublimes; boiled with nitric acid it is converted into sulphate of mercury.

The nature of the above *hydrargyri sulphuretum nigrum* is shown by the following experiments:—When boiled repeatedly in a solution of potassa, the excess of sulphur is removed, and a black insoluble powder remains, which, when washed and dried, is not acted on by nitric acid, and which at a red heat sublimes without decomposition, and assumes the characters of cinnabar: this compound, therefore, appears to be a mixture of bisulphuret of mercury and sulphur, and does not contain any of the protosulphuret. The strong attraction of sulphur for mercury is shown by what happens when the ingredients of the above formula are powerfully triturated together in large quantity; they become very hot, cake, and exhale a strong sulphureous odour.

If, then, this *hydrargyri sulphuretum nigrum* be a mixture of bisulphuret of mercury and sulphur, it should, according to the theory of equivalents, consist of—

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Bisulphuret of Mercury..... | 58    |
| Sulphur.....                | 42    |
|                             | <hr/> |
|                             | 100   |

This compound is the *ethiops mineral* of old pharmacy; it is a black insipid powder, and perfectly volatile at a red heat. According to Dr. Thomson<sup>1</sup>, “it is insoluble in nitric acid, but is totally dissolved by a solution of pure potass, from which the acids precipitate it unchanged.” The fact is, that solution of potassa only dissolves the excess of sulphur, and acids throw down sulphur only, from the solution. A strong boiling solution of hydrosulphuret of potassa, however, dissolves a very minute portion of sulphuret of mercury, as appears by the discoloration of the sulphur when afterwards thrown down by an acid. “It is often,” he adds, “ill prepared, which may be known by rubbing a portion of it on gold, to which, if it be good, no whiteness will be communicated. It is also sometimes adulterated with ivory black, which may be detected in

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<sup>1</sup> Lond. Disp. 1822, p. 684.



it by throwing a little of the suspected sulphuret on a red hot iron; if ivory black be present, some ashes will be left after the volatilisation, which will not be the case when it is good, the pure sulphuret being completely dissipated." "If," says Mr. Phillips, "it be adulterated with sulphuret of antimony, boil a little of the powder in undiluted muriatic acid, pour the clear solution into water, and submuriate of antimony will be precipitated." The fact, however, is, that these and a number of other adulterations to which the chemical articles of the Pharmacopœia are supposed to be liable, are scarcely to be apprehended in London, where the regular market is exclusively supplied by a few manufacturers only, and those of high respectability.

In regard to the medicinal uses of the compound before us, it is a very uncertain, inert, and useless remedy, which we can account for by its being a mere mixture of cinnabar and sulphur. From 5 to 30 grains have been prescribed as an alterative, and certain obstinate cutaneous affections are said to have yielded to its powers. Some have recommended it in scrofulous affections of the glands, and others have ascribed to it peculiar sedative powers. In consequence of its very mild and slow operation, it has been especially selected for children, but, as we have before said, its efficacy is so doubtful, that scarcely any practitioner employs it with confidence, and it might well have been rejected from the Pharmacopœia.

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*Hydrargyri Sulphuretum Rubrum. Red Sulphuret of Mercury.*

R. Hydrargyri purificati *pondere* uncias quadraginta,  
Sulphuris sublimati uncias octo;

Hydrargyrum cum Sulphure ad ignem liquefacto misce, et, quamprimum intumescat massa, vas ab igne remove, et fortiter tege, ne fiat inflammatio; deinde in pulverem tere, et sublima.

Take of purified Mercury, *by weight* forty ounces,  
Sublimed Sulphur, eight ounces;

Mix the Mercury with the melted Sulphur over the fire, and, as soon as the mass begins to intumesce, remove the vessel from the fire, and cover it forcibly, lest it should inflame; then reduce it to powder, and sublime.

This, as an article of pharmacy, is yet more useless than the preceding, in which the excess of sulphur may, in some cases, be useful: it has no medical virtue, and is probably only retained for mercurial fumigation, a practice not only

nearly obsolete, but the object of which may be attained by other less exceptionable means.

This compound, known under the names of *cinnabar* and *vermilion*, is a bisulphuret of mercury, composed of—

|   |                               |       |            |       |            |
|---|-------------------------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|
| 1 | proportional of Mercury ..... | =     | 200        | ..... | 86.2       |
| 2 | ————— Sulphur .....           | 16×2= | 32         | ..... | 13.8       |
|   |                               |       | <u>232</u> |       | <u>100</u> |

When taken out of the subliming vessel it appears of a fibrous texture, and a grey colour, but it acquires a fine red tint when duly levigated. It occurs native, and is the principal ore of mercury, the metal being obtained by distilling it with iron filings and lime, by which it is easily decomposed at high temperatures. On account of the brilliancy of its colour it is abundantly used as a pigment, but with oil or water it soon acquires a dingy hue. When purchased in powder it is sometimes adulterated with red lead, in which case it is not, as it should be, entirely volatile at a red heat.

Cinnabar forms an ingredient in certain nostrums for gout, rheumatism, and the bites of rabid animals; and according to Dr. Paris, to whom we are indebted for exposing the composition of several quack remedies, it is the leading ingredient in *Chamberlain's restorative pills*; "*The most certain cure for the scrofula or King's evil, fistula, scurvy, and all impurities of the blood*<sup>1</sup>."

Cinnabar is insoluble in nitric and muriatic acids. Boiled in sulphuric acid, sulphurous acid is evolved, and sulphate of mercury is formed. Nitromuriatic acid acts upon and decomposes it, even in the cold.

## PREPARATIONS OF LEAD.

### *Plumbi Acetas.*

R Plumbi Subcarbonatis libram,  
Acidi acetici fortioris octarium,  
Aquæ destillatæ ferventis octarium  
cum semisse;  
Misce Acidum cum Aqua: his

### *Acetate of Lead.*

Take of Subcarbonate of Lead, a pound,  
Strong Acetic Acid, a pint,  
Boiling distilled Water, a pint  
and a half;  
Mix the Acid with the Water; to

<sup>1</sup> Pharmacologia, vol. ii. p. 247.



Plumbi Subcarbonatem paulatim adjice, et coque donec Acidum saturetur; deinde per chartam cola, et, Aquâ consumptâ donec pellicula subnascatur, sepone ut fiant crystalli. Has, effuso liquore, super chartam bibulam exsicca.

which add the Subcarbonate of Lead gradually, and boil until the Acid is saturated; then filter through paper, and having evaporated until a pellicle appears, set it by, that crystals may form. Pour off the liquor, and dry them upon bibulous paper.

Lead is a metal of a bluish-white colour and much brilliancy, which soon tarnishes by exposure to air. Its specific gravity is 11.35. It fuses, according to Mr. Daniell<sup>1</sup>, at 609° Fahrenheit. It forms three oxides; the protoxide is yellow, and known in commerce by the name of *massicot*: the deutoxide is well known as *minium*, or *red-lead*: the peroxide is brown, and not used. Of these oxides the first only is salifiable; it consists of—

|   |                           |   |     |       |      |
|---|---------------------------|---|-----|-------|------|
| 1 | proportional of Lead..... | = | 104 | ..... | 92.8 |
| 1 | ————— Oxygen.....         | = | 8   | ..... | 7.2  |
|   |                           |   | 112 |       | 100  |

And white-lead, or carbonate of lead (called in the above formula *subcarbonate*), consists of—

|   |                                      |   |     |       |      |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|-----|-------|------|
| 1 | proportional of Protoxide of Lead... | = | 112 | ..... | 83.6 |
| 1 | ————— Carbonic Acid.....             | = | 22  | ..... | 16.4 |
|   |                                      |   | 134 |       | 100  |

By the above process the carbonate of lead is decomposed by boiling it with the acetic acid, and crystallised acetate of lead is easily obtained by the usual process; but this salt, known in commerce under the name of *sugar of lead*, is largely manufactured in the wholesale way, and seldom therefore prepared in the pharmaceutical laboratory; it ought consequently to have had a place in the *Materia Medica*. It consists of—

|   |                                     |     |     |       |             |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------------|
| 1 | proportional of Protoxide of Lead.. | =   | 112 | ..... | 59.25       |
| 1 | ————— Acetic Acid.....              | =   | 51  | ..... | 26.45       |
| 3 | ————— Water .....                   | 9×3 | =   | 27    | ..... 14.30 |
|   |                                     |     | 190 |       | 100         |

Acetate of lead forms prismatic crystals, soluble in about four parts of water at 60°, and of a singularly sweet and somewhat astringent taste. It generally occurs in commerce in masses composed of irregular assemblages of acicular crystals, and is seldom perfectly soluble in water. The smallest portion

<sup>1</sup> Quarterly Journal, vol. xi. p. 309.

of sulphuric or carbonic acid in water produces a precipitate when acetate of lead is added. A current of carbonic acid passed through a solution of this salt throws down one half of the oxide of lead in the state of carbonate, and an uncrySTALLISABLE *binacetate* of lead remains in solution. When finely powdered protoxide of lead is boiled in a solution of the acetate, a portion equal to that originally existing in the salt is taken up, and a *subacetate* of lead is formed, composed of one proportional of acid and two proportionals of oxide : in the above formula, therefore, rather less carbonate of lead than is required to saturate the acid is directed, in order to insure the production of the neutral acetate.

Externally, acetate of lead has been very long employed as a sedative and astringent application ; it has also acquired considerable celebrity as an internal remedy, requiring, however, considerable caution in its exhibition. Its principal use is in *urgent* cases of internal hæmorrhage, as of the lungs, stomach, or uterus ; and in consequence of the spasmodic action of the bowels, which it is apt to induce, it requires generally to be given with opium, and often with some mild aperient. Paralytic affections occasionally follow its administration, where due precaution in regard to the state of the bowels is not taken.

Dr. Paris, in speaking of the medicinal uses of acetate of lead, says, “ I feel no hesitation in pronouncing this salt of lead to be one of the most valuable resources of physic ; from the results of numerous cases, I state with confidence that it is more efficient in stopping pulmonary and uterine hæmorrhage than any other known remedy—‘ *nil simile, nec secundum* ;’ and that its application is equally safe and manageable ; but it must not be combined with substances capable of decomposing it, nor must it be simultaneously administered with the medicines which are frequently prescribed in conjunction with it, as *infusion of roses, sulphate of magnesia, &c.*”

In hæmoptysis, where the quantity of blood coughed up is considerable, or where the usual remedies, especially nitre and dilute sulphuric acid, fail, acetate of lead may be given, as in the following formula, care being taken to avoid in the medicines and drinks those acids which decompose it, and especially the sulphuric, by which, as appears from Orfila’s experiments<sup>1</sup>, it is rendered nearly, if not quite inert : hence it is that sulphate of soda is an effective antidote where any of the soluble salts of lead have been swallowed.

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<sup>1</sup> *Traité des Poisons*, tom. i. 2me partie, p. 281.



℞ Plumbi Acetatis,\* gr. iv.

Pulveris Opii, gr. iij.

Confectionis Rosæ Caninæ, q. s.

Misce et divide in pilulas sex æquales, quarum sumatur una ter in die.

Or the following from Dr. Paris :—

℞ Plumbi Acetatis, gr. iij.

Opii Pur. gr. j.

Extract. Conii, gr. x.

Fiat massa in pilulas tres dividenda, quarum sumatur una bis quotidie, superbibendo haustum ex acido acetico compos.

A proper dose of digitalis may be combined with the above pills; or it may be given with acetate of lead as follows :—

℞ Plumbi Acetatis, gr. j. Solve in

Aquæ Rosæ f ʒj. et adde

Oxymellis Simplicis f ʒj.

Tinctur. Opii ℥v.

—— Digitalis ℥x.

Fiat haustus quartis vel sextis horis sumendus.

In hæmatemesis the same remedies may be had recourse to ; also in menorrhagia ; but in all these cases the necessity of active measures for subduing febrile symptoms, where the inflammatory diathesis prevails, must not be lost sight of ; nor should the patient be, in any case, suffered to continue the use of the acetate of lead for a length of time.

When solutions of acetate of lead are used externally, the salt should be dissolved in distilled water, and all substances tending to decompose it should be carefully avoided. The addition of a little acetic acid to these lotions prevents the deposition in them of carbonate of lead ; and where they are used as collyria, such deposition is sometimes mischievous : they are employed in ophthalmia, and generally as astringents and sedatives in all cases of superficial inflammation. When, as is often the case, a little carbonate of lead is contained in the acetate, the solution should generally be directed to be filtered, especially if it is to be applied to the eyes. For collyria, the proportion of acetate of lead may be about 10 grains, and for lotions about 30 grains, to 8 ounces of rose or elder-flower water, and 2 or 3 drachms of distilled vinegar may be added.

# *Liquor Plumbi Subacetatis. Solution of Subacetate of Lead.*

R Plumbi Oxydi semivitrei libras  
duas,  
Acidi acetici diluti congiū;

Misce, et decoque ad octarios sex,  
assiduè movens; dein seponē, ut sub-  
sident fæces, et cola.

Take of semi-vitreous Oxide of Lead,  
two pounds,  
Diluted Acetic Acid, a gallon;

Mix, and boil down to six pints,  
constantly stirring; then set the liquor  
by, that the dregs may subside, and  
filter.

The nature of litharge, or semi-vitreous oxide of lead, has already been pointed out (p. 171). By boiling this oxide in dilute acetic acid, as directed in the above process, an uncrySTALLISABLE solution of *subacetate of lead* is obtained, not much different from that procured by boiling a mixture of acetate and oxide of lead in water, and containing—

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2 \text{ proportionals of Protoxide of Lead} & \dots\dots & 112 \times 2 = 224 \\ 1 \text{ ————— Acetic Acid} & \dots\dots\dots & = 51 \\ & & \hline & & 275 \end{array}$$

The relative quantity of oxide in this solution will obviously depend upon the strength of the distilled vinegar used in its formation. “When the specific gravity of the latter is 1·007, that of the solution of subacetate of lead is 1·220, but if the vinegar is so strong as to have a specific gravity of 1·009, then that of the subacetate reaches 1·309<sup>1</sup>.”

This solution, when made as above directed, is of a pale-yellowish colour; when deep brown it has probably been made with common instead of distilled vinegar, as formerly directed in the London and most other Pharmacopœiæ, under the term *extractum Saturni*. It is decomposed by the soluble carbonates, sulphates, and muriates, and by the greater number of soluble vegetable principles; it renders water turbid which contains the minutest portion of carbonic acid. It is limited to external use, and is, when duly diluted with distilled water, as in *Goulard's saturnine lotion*, a valuable sedative and astringent application, in almost all cases of external inflammation. In an undiluted state, applied upon lint, it occasionally heals old and troublesome sores, and is recommended by Dr. Vetch<sup>2</sup> as possessing great efficacy in altering the violently purulent state of the membrane in conjunctival ophthalmia; in opaque

<sup>1</sup> Phillips's Trans. Pharmacop. p. 127.

<sup>2</sup> On Diseases of the Eye, 1820, pp. 19 and 84.



cornea, he remarks that it is the only substance which he has found beneficial, from its astringency upon the palpebral surface, without exciting hurtful consequences as a stimulus: he adds, that although this solution of lead, when undiluted, merely occasions a temporary sensation as if sand or gravel had got into the eye, yet it often causes much heat and smarting when diluted.

An opinion has prevailed with some, that preparations of lead, externally applied, are liable to produce mischievous effects in consequence of being absorbed into the system, but this can only happen where they are long and carelessly persevered in; the possibility, however, of such an effect should not be lost sight of.

*Liquor Plumbi Subacetatis  
Dilutus.*

R Liquoris Plumbi Subacetatis fluid-  
drachmam,  
Aquæ destillatæ octarium,  
Spiritus tenuioris fluidrachmam;  
Misce.

*Diluted Solution of Sub-  
acetate of Lead.*

Take of Solution of Subacetate of Lead,  
a fluidrachm,  
Distilled Water, a pint,  
Proof Spirit, a fluidrachm;  
Mix.

This should have been left to extemporaneous prescription, for the degree of dilution in which it is desirable to apply the solution of subacetate of lead varies extremely with the nature of the case. The object of the addition of a drachm of proof spirit to a pint of the above solution is not manifest.

## PREPARATIONS OF ZINC.

*Calamina Præparata.*

Calaminam ure; tum contere. De-  
inde fiat pulvis subtilissimus eodem  
modo quo Cretam præparari præcepi-  
mus.

*Prepared Calamine.*

Calcine the Calamine; then bruise  
it; lastly reduce it to a very fine pow-  
der by the method which we have di-  
rected for the preparation of Chalk.

Under the article *Calamina* in the list of *Materia Medica*, the composition, properties, and uses of that substance are enumerated. If it be pure and subjected to calcination, as above directed, little else than oxide of zinc will remain; but from the impurities of the ore, we generally find in the prepared calamine of the shops a considerable portion of earthy matter.

*Zinci Oxydum.*

R Zinci Sulphatis libram,  
Liquoris Ammoniae octarium, vel  
quantum satis sit,  
Aquæ destillatæ octarium ;

Zinci Sulphatem in Aqua destillata  
liqua, et adjice Liquoris Ammoniae  
quantum satis sit, ut Oxydum Zinci  
penitus dejiatur. Liquore effuso pul-  
verem Aquâ destillatâ sæpius ablue, et  
balneo arenæ exsicca.

*Oxide of Zinc.*

Take of Sulphate of Zinc, a pound,  
Solution of Ammonia, a pint,  
or a sufficient quantity,  
Distilled Water, a pint ;

Dissolve the Sulphate of Zinc in the  
distilled Water, and add as much of the  
Solution of Ammonia as will suffice for  
the entire precipitation of the Oxide of  
Zinc. Having poured off the clear  
liquor, wash the powder repeatedly with  
distilled Water, and dry it on a sand-  
bath.

This oxide, under the name of “flowers of zinc,” has long had a place in Pharmacopœiæ, and was prepared by exposing the metal to a temperature sufficient to cause its inflammation and rapid oxidizement. Old authors describe it under the names of *pompholix*, *nihil album*, and *philosopher’s wool*. In Holland its preparation was kept secret, and it was sold under the name of *arcanum Ludemanni* or *luna fixata*, the composition of which was originally divulged by Gaubius. When procured by combustion this oxide is apt to contain small particles of the unburnt metal, and accordingly the above process is substituted, in which sulphate of zinc is decomposed by solution of ammonia; the oxide thus precipitated dries in the form of an impalpable white powder, and the only requisite caution in thus forming it is not to add ammonia in excess, which would redissolve a portion of the precipitate. In the above formula the word *octarium* should probably be *congium*, a gallon of water not being more than is required for the convenient solution of a pound of the sulphate.

This is the only known oxide of zinc ; it consists of—

|                             |   |    |      |     |
|-----------------------------|---|----|------|-----|
| 1 proportional of Zinc..... | = | 34 | .... | 81  |
| 1 ————— Oxygen.....         | = | 8  | .... | 19  |
|                             |   | 42 | ..   | 100 |

It is colourless, insipid, and insoluble in water ; readily soluble in the greater number of the acids, and when recently precipitated and humid, is easily dissolved by solutions of potassa, soda, and ammonia.

The medical virtues of oxide of zinc are considered as anti-spasmodic and tonic ; it has been advantageously prescribed in dyspeptic spasms of the stomach, in chorea, in whooping-





cough, and in epilepsy, in the dose of from 2 to 10 grains twice or three times a day, accompanied by light bitters.

R Zinci Oxydi

Extracti Anthemidis, āā gr. v.

Fiant pilulæ duæ bis vel ter in die sumendæ cū haustu sequenti.

R Infusi Gentianæ compos. f 3x.

Tinct. Cardamomi f 3ss. M.

Oxide of zinc is used externally in the form of ointment (see *Unguentum Zinci*), and is sometimes sprinkled upon sores and excoriations, in the same way as calamine (p. 52.)

It is said that this oxide is frequently adulterated with white lead, or with chalk; if so, the former fraud is easily detected by the insolubility of the sample in sulphuric acid diluted with four times its bulk of water; and the latter by the effervescence that would ensue upon the affusion of diluted acetic acid, from which oxalate of ammonia would afterwards throw down oxalate of lime.

### *Zinci Sulphas.*

R Zinci frustulorum uncias quatuor,

Acidi sulphurici *pondere* uncias  
sex,

Aquæ destillatæ octarios quatuor;

Misce in vase vitreo, et, finitâ effervescentiâ, liquorem per chartam cola; tum decoque, donec pellicula subnascatur, et sepone, ut fiant crystalli.

### *Sulphate of Zinc.*

Take of Zinc, in small fragments, four  
ounces,

Sulphuric Acid, *by weight*, six  
ounces,

Distilled Water, four pints;

Mix them in a glass vessel, and when the effervescence has ceased, filter the solution through paper; then evaporate until a pellicle forms upon its surface, and set it by, that crystals may form.

In this process the zinc is oxidized at the expense of the water, the hydrogen of which is evolved in the gaseous form; the acid combines with the oxide thus obtained, and a solution of *sulphate of zinc* is produced, which, by due evaporation, affords quadrilateral prismatic crystals, composed of—

|   |                                    |          |      |       |
|---|------------------------------------|----------|------|-------|
| 1 | proportional of Oxide of Zinc..... | = 42     | .... | 29.5  |
| 1 | ————— Sulphuric Acid.....          | = 40     | .... | 31.0  |
| 6 | ————— " Water.....                 | 9×6 = 54 | .... | 39.5  |
|   |                                    | <hr/>    |      | <hr/> |
|   |                                    | 136      |      | 100   |

When the salt is pure, these crystals are colourless; but

they not unfrequently have a brown or pink hue, arising from a little iron or manganese; their taste is nauseously astringent and metallic; they dissolve in less than their own weight of boiling water, and in rather less than thrice their weight of water at the temperature of  $60^{\circ}$ : they are permanent in the air at ordinary temperatures; exposed to a red heat, their water of crystallisation is first driven off, then the acid is expelled, and oxide of zinc remains; their solution is decomposed by the alkalies, and by the alkaline carbonates, and oxide and carbonate of zinc are thrown down; a precipitate is also produced in several vegetable infusions by the addition of sulphate of zinc, more especially in those which abound in astringent matter.

The substance known in commerce under the name of *white vitriol* is an impure sulphate of zinc, and is occasionally substituted for that directed in the above formula: this, however, should in all cases be avoided, inasmuch as it almost always contains sulphate of copper; it also retains much less water in its composition, so that it is considerably more active than the crystallised sulphate.

As an internal remedy, sulphate of zinc is chiefly used as a tonic and emetic; applied externally, it is a powerful and often useful astringent. It is given in very small doses, a quarter of a grain, for instance, twice or thrice a day, in dyspepsia (see page 178); in epilepsy one or two grains have been given every four or six hours; and in all diseases of debility connected with inflammatory action, it has been preferred to other mineral tonics, as being less apt to excite thirst, arterial action, and other febrile symptoms; but it is doubtful whether there are good grounds for this preference.

In dyspeptic affections, sulphate of zinc and other similar and powerful remedies generally require to be given in very small doses, and to be long persevered in, if we wish to derive the utmost benefit from their powers. Dr. W. Philip says of this remedy—"in the opinion of many, the sulphate of zinc, given in very small doses, holds a distinguished place among the astringents suited to indigestion, and it is sometimes successful where other tonics fail. It may be given at later periods than iron, but it requires caution, and if its good effects do not soon appear, should be laid aside. It is one of those powerful agents which must always be employed with some degree of suspicion<sup>1</sup>."

Sulphate of zinc is one of the numerous remedies resorted

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<sup>1</sup> On Indigestion, 4th edit. p. 206.



to in the cure of epilepsy, where it is usually given with vegetable bitters, and with the more powerful antispasmodics.

R Zinci Sulphatis gr. j.  
 Extracti Anthemidis gr. x.  
 Misce fiant pilulæ duæ quater die sumendæ.

The following has also been much extolled in epilepsy, by those who confide in the virtues of musk:—

R Zinci Sulphatis gr. x.  
 Moschi ℥j.  
 Camphoræ ℥j.  
 M. et divide in pilulas viginti, quarum sumantur duæ bis vel ter in die.

In diseases attended by considerable irritability as well as debility, sulphate of zinc certainly appears preferable to sulphate of iron. In the advanced period of whooping-cough, from an eighth to a quarter of a grain may be given twice or three times a day, conjoined with small doses of infusion of bark, or of cascarilla; or it may, if requisite, be united in pills with extract of hemlock or of henbane. “In spasmodic coughs,” Dr. Paris says<sup>1</sup>, “it is administered with the best effects, especially when combined with camphor or myrrh.

“ R Zinci Sulphatis gr. x.  
 Myrrhæ in pulverem tritæ ℥jss.  
 Confect. Rosæ q. s. ut fiant pilulæ viginti, è quibus sumantur binæ bis quotidie.

“In affections of the chest, attended with inordinate secretion, I have witnessed much benefit from its exhibition, particularly when presented in the form of lozenge.”

In the cure of intermittent fevers, sulphate of zinc is an admirable tonic, either with or without Peruvian bark; and in all those obstinate cases where the use of arsenic has been suggested, this salt of zinc should have a previous trial.

R Zinci Sulphatis gr. ij.  
 Aquæ Cinnamoni,  
 — destillatæ, aa f℥ijss.  
 Tincturæ Calumbæ f℥j.  
 M. fiat mistura cujus capiat æger cochlearia tria ampla tertiâ vel quartâ quâque horâ.

It has been said that sulphate of zinc, which occasions a precipitation in infusion of Peruvian bark, is therefore incom-

<sup>1</sup> Pharmacologia, vol. ii. p. 462.

patible with it; but the combination remains very effective : thus—

R Zinci Sulphatis gr. ss.  
Decocti Cinchonæ f ʒxv.  
Tincturæ Gentianæ compos. ʒj.

M. fiat haustus ter quaterve die sumendus.

Nor does the following appear to be an unchemical combination—

R Zinci Sulphatis gr. ¼.  
Quiniæ Sulphatis gr. ij.  
Infusi Rosæ compos. f ʒx.  
Tincturæ Aurantii,  
Syrupi Aurantii, aa f ʒj.

M. fiat haustus quartâ quâque horâ sumendus.

In ulcerated sore throat a gargle of sulphate of zinc is often of the greatest local service : the following is among other forms that may be used :—

R Zinci Sulphatis ʒj.  
Aquæ Rosæ f ʒvij.  
Oxymellis Simpl. f ʒj.

M. fiat gargarisma frequenter utendum.

As an emetic, sulphate of zinc is generally very rapid and very certain in its action, and well suited to those cases in which it is desired to empty the stomach of any poisonous contents. The average dose for this purpose is 20 grains.

R Zinci Sulphatis ʒj.  
Aq. Menthæ viridis f ʒjss.  
Spt. Lavandulæ compos. f ʒj.

Fiat haustus emeticus.

At the commencement of febrile diseases, and in other analogous cases where emetics are administered, tartarised antimony and ipecacuanha, which tend to produce diaphoresis, independent of the mere exertion of vomiting, are to be selected in preference to sulphate of zinc.

In the form of a dilute solution in distilled water, sulphate of zinc is a good astringent application : as such it is used in ophthalmia, after the vascular congestion and excessive irritability have been removed, and when the inflammation tends to become chronic.

R Zinci Sulphatis gr. x.  
Aquæ Rosæ f ʒviij.

M. fiat collyrium.

A similar or somewhat stronger solution may also be employed with advantage in the latter stages of gonorrhœa.



## PREPARATIONS OF SULPHUR.

*Oleum Sulphuratum.*

R Sulphuris loti uncias duas,  
Olivæ Olei octarium;  
  
Oleo in vase ferreo peramplo cale-  
facto Sulphur paulatim injice, et spathâ  
assiduè move, donec coërint.

*Sulphurated Oil.*

Take of washed Sulphur, two ounces,  
Olive Oil, a pint;

Heat the Oil in a very large iron ves-  
sel, and add the Sulphur gradually,  
constantly stirring, until they have  
united.

When sulphur and fixed oil are heated together, they combine into a brown viscid compound, to which the term *balsam of sulphur* was formerly applied, and which is extolled by old pharmaceutical writers as “of good use to digest crude humours and indigested matter gathered together in any part of the body, being often anointed upon the same<sup>1</sup>.” It was used also internally as “a marvellous restorative for weak lungs.” At present, no use is made of this preparation; no one would think of prescribing it internally; and although sulphur is often a valuable external application, the above is a very ineligible form of it. That the oil has suffered a partial decomposition in this process, is evident from the odour of sulphuretted hydrogen which the compound exhales.

*Anisated balsam of sulphur*, once a celebrated remedy for hoarseness, consisted of the above, with the addition of a sixth part of the essential oil of aniseed. Ten drops were taken two or three times a day, mixed with powdered sugar.

*Potassæ Sulphuretum.*

R Sulphuris loti unciam,  
Potassæ Subcarbonatis uncias duas;  
  
Tere simul, et in crucibulo clauso  
super ignem impone, donec coërint.

*Sulphuret of Potassa.*

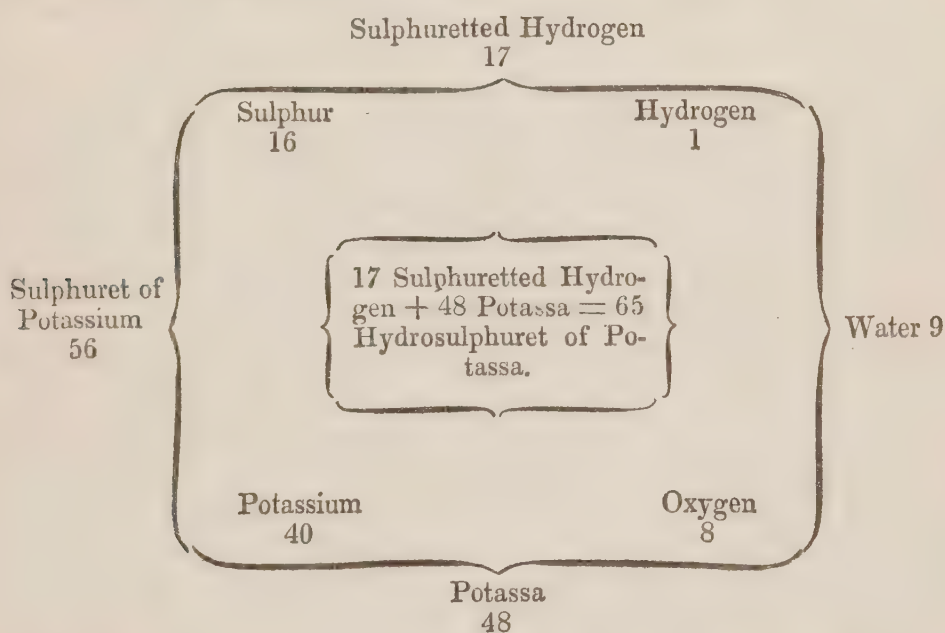
Take of washed Sulphur, an ounce,  
Subcarbonate of Potassa, two  
ounces;  
  
Rub them together, and place them  
upon the fire in a covered crucible,  
until they unite.

The first effect perceived on heating this mixture of sulphur and subcarbonate of potassa, is the abundant evolution of carbonic acid gas, the whole of which is expelled: the sulphur then acts upon and decomposes part of the potassa, one portion forming sulphuric acid and sulphate of potassa, while another

<sup>1</sup> Salmon, *Doron Medicum*, p. 673.

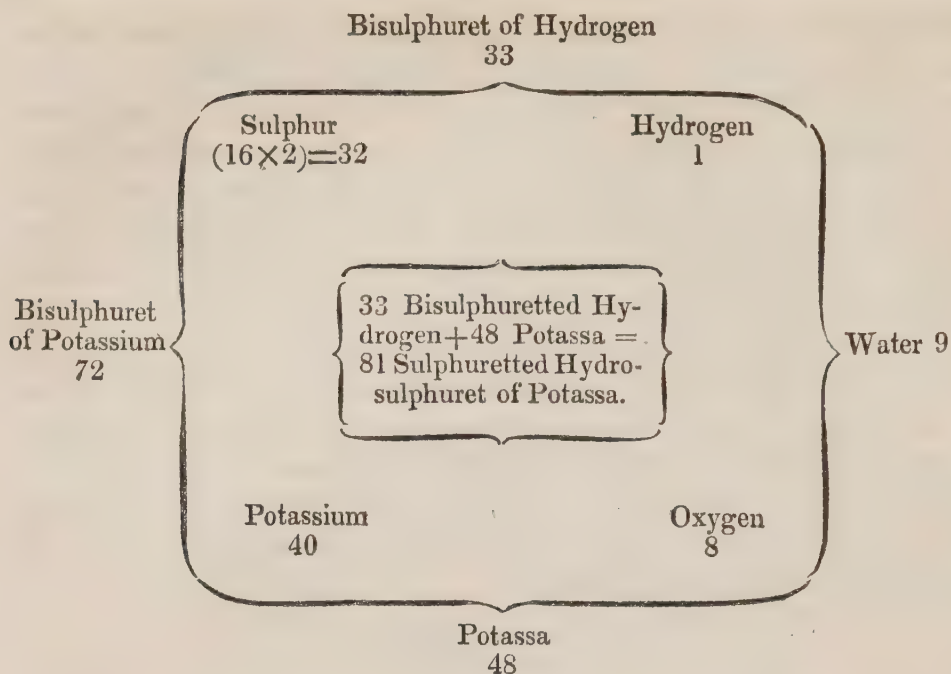
portion of the sulphur unites with potassium, to form a bisulphuret of that metal; the resulting compound, therefore, called "*potassæ sulphuretum*," is sulphate of potassa, with bisulphuret of potassium, and excess of sulphur. To render the details of the above decomposition explicit, it may be worth while more fully to describe the mutual action of sulphur and potassium and of sulphur and potassa, and the changes induced in these sulphurets by the action of water.

When 40 parts of potassium are heated with 16 of sulphur, 56 parts of *sulphuret of potassium* are obtained, which, when put into water, furnishes, as shown in the following diagram, 65 parts of hydrosulphuret of potassa; that is, the water transfers *one* proportional of hydrogen to the *one* of sulphur, to produce sulphuretted hydrogen; and *one* of oxygen to the *one* of potassium, to produce potassa.



When *one* proportional of potassium (= 40) is heated with *two* of sulphur (= 32) a *bisulphuret of potassium* is formed, which resists a red heat without decomposition. The same compound is obtained whenever excess of sulphur is heated to redness with potassium. When put into water, it yields a solution of *sulphuretted hydrosulphuret of potassa*, or of a compound of potassa with bisulphuretted hydrogen; for only *one* proportional of water is decomposed by it, and *one* proportional of potassa formed: the *one* proportional of hydrogen uniting with *two* of sulphur ( $1 + 16 \times 2$ ) to form *one* proportional of *bisulphuretted hydrogen*, represented by the equivalent number 33. These changes are shown in the following diagram:





Sulphuret of potassium is formed also by the action of hydrogen, or of charcoal, at high temperatures, upon sulphate of potassa; in which case the oxygen both of the sulphuric acid and of the potassa is carried off, either in union with the hydrogen or with the carbon, and *one* proportional of sulphur and *one* of potassium remain in combination.

When the solution of hydrosulphuret of potassa, obtained by dissolving sulphuret of potassium in water, or by passing sulphuretted hydrogen into solution of potassa, is decomposed by an acid, sulphuretted hydrogen gas is evolved, and there is no deposition or excess of sulphur. But when acids are added to the solution of sulphuretted hydrosulphuret of potassa, either sulphur or bisulphuret of hydrogen are deposited. If a *strong* solution of the sulphuretted hydrosulphuret be poured into muriatic acid, a viscid substance falls, which is bisulphuret of hydrogen; but if muriatic acid be dropped into a *weak* solution, sulphuretted hydrogen is evolved, and sulphur is precipitated.

When sulphur is heated with potassa<sup>1</sup>, (oxide of potassium,) the results are sulphuret or bisulphuret of potassium and sulphate of potassa: that is, a portion of the potassa communicates a sufficiency of oxygen to part of the sulphur to convert it into sulphuric acid, which uniting with the remaining unaltered potassa, forms sulphate of potassa. The

<sup>1</sup> When common caustic potash or hydrate of potassa is fused with sulphur, the water which it contains is decomposed, and its elements evolved in combination with sulphur.

residuary sulphur and the potassium combine to form sulphuret of potassium.

In further illustration of this decomposition, we may suppose *four* proportionals of potassa ( $48 \times 4$ ) to be acted upon by *four* proportionals of sulphur ( $16 \times 4$ ), in which case *one* proportional of the sulphur (16) will abstract *three* proportionals of oxygen ( $8 \times 3$ ) from *three* of the potassa, to form *one* proportional of sulphuric acid (40), which, uniting with *one* of potassa (48), will form *one* of sulphate of potassa ( $40 + 48 = 88$ ): and the *three* proportionals of potassium ( $40 \times 3$ ) will then unite with the remaining *three* of sulphur ( $16 \times 3$ ) to form *three* proportionals of sulphuret of potassium.

It appears that there are only two sulphurets of potassium permanent at high temperatures, namely the *sulphuret* and the *bisulphuret* above described; but these unite with sulphur by fusion at a moderate heat, apparently indefinitely, though some chemists have assumed that several definite combinations may be obtained. Berzelius, for instance, supposes that there are no less than seven sulphurets of potassium, in which one proportional of metal is combined respectively with 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 proportionals of sulphur<sup>1</sup>, but neither his experiments nor analogy sanction such an opinion.

The “potassæ sulphuretum” of the Pharmacopœia, supposing it properly prepared, is then, as above stated, a mixture of bisulphuret of potassium, sulphate of potassa, and a small excess of sulphur; it is of a dirty yellow colour, inclining to olive green, a slightly sulphureous smell, and a nauseous alkaline and bitter taste. Its usefulness is very doubtful, either as an internal or external remedy. Some call it expectorant, others diaphoretic, and others are content with calling it by the universally applicable name of an alterative. It has been prescribed in doses of from two to five grains in pulmonary affections in rheumatism, and in cutaneous disorders; and is best, united with soap, in the form of pill. Perhaps the only cases which will induce the practitioner to use it are those of obstinate cutaneous eruptions, where other things have been tried in vain. The following may then be prescribed:—

R Potassæ Sulphureti,  
Saponis duri, āā ʒss.

Divide in pilulas xxiv. quarum capiat unam quartâ quâque horâ,  
superbibendo cyathum Decocti Sarsaparillæ compositi.

The following lotion has been recommended in *tinea capitis*:—

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<sup>1</sup> Annals of Philosophy, N. S. vol. iv. p. 214.



℞ Potassæ Sulphureti ℥iij.  
 Saponis duri ℥ij. Solve in  
 Aquæ Rosæ f ℥vij.  
 Spiritûs Rectificati f ℥j.

Fiat lotio quâ irrorantur maculæ impetiginosæ, mane et vesperi.

An ointment of sulphuret of potassa, containing about half a drachm of the sulphuret, carefully triturated with an ounce of lard or of spermaceti cerate, has been used in the cure of the itch: it appears, however, to possess no advantage over other less disagreeable applications.

As an antidote to poisons, sulphuret of potassa is very properly laid aside. There is no case in which it can be judiciously administered.

### *Sulphur Lotum.*

℞ Sulphuris sublimati libram;  
 Aquam ferventem superinfunde, ut  
 Acidum, si quod sit, penitus abluatur;  
 dein sicca.

### *Washed Sulphur.*

Take of sublimed Sulphur, a pound;  
 Pour upon it boiling Water, so that  
 the Acid, if there be any, may be perfectly washed away; then dry it.

In the process of subliming sulphur, a portion is generally acidified, and accordingly the unwashed sublimed sulphur has frequently a sour taste: the object of the above process is merely to wash away this adhering sulphuric acid.

The properties and medical uses of sulphur will be found under that head, in the list of the Materia Medica (see page 216.) The virtues of washed sulphur correspond with those already enumerated as belonging to the other forms of this substance.

### *Sulphur Præcipitatum.*

℞ Sulphuris sublimati libram,  
 Calcis recentis libras duas,  
 Aquæ congios quatuor;

Sulphur et Calcem in Aqua simul coque; tum liquorem per chartam cola, eique instilla Acidi muriatici quantum satis sit ut demittatur Sulphur. Denique hoc, superinfusâ sæpius Aquâ, lava, donec insipidum fiat.

### *Precipitated Sulphur.*

Take of sublimed Sulphur, a pound,  
 Fresh Lime, two pounds,  
 Water, four gallons;

Boil the Sulphur and the Lime together in the Water, then filter the liquor through paper, and drop into it as much muriatic Acid as may be necessary to precipitate the Sulphur; lastly, wash the precipitate repeatedly with water till it becomes tasteless.

The mutual action of lime and sulphur corresponds in many

points with that of potassa and sulphur<sup>1</sup>, when they are heated together: under these circumstances sulphuret of calcium and sulphate of lime are produced; there is, however, no bisulphuret of calcium permanent at a red heat.

When sulphur and lime are boiled in water, as directed in the above formula, a compound of bisulphuretted hydrogen and lime is formed, which may be obtained in crystals, composed, according to Mr. Herschel, of 2 proportionals of lime, 2 of sulphur + 1 of hydrogen (forming bisulphuretted hydrogen), and 4 of water: muriatic acid is added to the aqueous solution of this sulphuretted hydrosulphuret of lime, sulphur is precipitated, and sulphuretted hydrogen evolved.

The sulphur thus thrown down is in a state of very minute division, and perhaps retains a little hydrogen and water; but it can scarcely be considered as preferable to common sulphur for medical use, except, perhaps, when it is desired to administer it in draughts or mixtures, and then, being in very fine powder, it blends more readily with liquids than sublimed sulphur.

Precipitated sulphur ought to be entirely volatilised by heat: we frequently find it containing a very large quantity of sulphate of lime, in which case it may be suspected that dilute sulphuric, instead of muriatic acid, has been used in its precipitation.

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<sup>1</sup> In reference to the action of sulphur upon the alkalies and lime, the reader will consult with advantage Vauquelin's memoir in the *Annales de Chimie et Physique*, tom. xvi. p. 1.



## VEGETABLES.

### *Vegetabilia.*

Decerpenda sunt Vegetabilia ex locis et solo, ubi sponte nascuntur, tempestate sicca, nec imbribus nec rore madefacta; quotannis colligenda sunt, et quæ diutius servata fuerint rejicienda.

RADICES pleræque effodiendæ sunt antequam caules aut folia exierant.

CORTICES colligi debent eâ tempestate, quâ facillimè à ligno separari possint.

FOLIA decerpenda sunt postquam flores expansi fuerint: et antequam semina maturescant.

FLORES legendi sunt nuper explicati.

SEMINA colligenda sunt jam matura, et antequam è planta decidere inciperint. Hæc in propriis pericarpis servari debent.

### *Vegetables.*

VEGETABLES are to be collected from the places and soil where they grow spontaneously, in dry weather when they are neither wet from showers nor dew; they are to be collected annually, and those which have been kept longer than a year, are to be rejected.

Most roots are to be dug up before the stalks or leaves shoot forth.

BARKS ought to be collected at that season when they can be most easily separated from the wood.

LEAVES are to be gathered after the flowers are blown; and before the seeds ripen.

FLOWERS are to be gathered recently blown.

SEEDS are to be collected as soon as they are ripe, and before they begin to fall from the plant. They should be kept in their own seed-vessels.

The above are the directions given in the Pharmacopœia, respecting the times and circumstances under which vegetable products are to be collected for pharmaceutical use. They are essentially the same as those long ago laid down by Linnaeus <sup>1</sup>, and involve some important considerations, con-

<sup>1</sup> 1. RADICES sub veris initium antequam folia prorumpunt effodiendæ.  
2. HERBÆ decerpendæ cùm flores formantur.  
3. FLORES prius legendi quam pollen antherarum demittunt.  
4. STIPITES autumnò, quo potiori vi animantur, desumendæ.  
5. TURIONES colligendi, antequam eorum folia se explicuerint.

6. CORTICES

nected with the growth and functions of plants, of which those who have the direction of a pharmaceutical laboratory should not be ignorant.

The necessity of rejecting the generality of vegetables collected in the preceding year, though sufficiently obvious, is too often unattended to, especially by the wholesale venders of medicinal herbs, to whom apothecaries in general resort for their supplies. In many articles, such as *aromatic plants*, odour and acrimony are greatly impaired by age; but in others, of eminent activity, it often happens that the virtue is diminished or entirely lost, and that dangerous uncertainties result from their employment; this happens in regard to hemlock, henbane, and more especially foxglove.

*Roots* in general are ordered to be dug up in the spring, when their proper juices are most perfect and abundant, and before they are consumed in those changes which take place during the growth of the stem and leaves. They may, however, with equal propriety be collected early in the winter, before the stems have entirely withered away.

*Barks* are directed to be taken at that season at which they easily separate from the wood; that is, with few exceptions, late in the spring or very early in summer, for it is at that time that they abound most in sap and in the peculiar secretions of the individual tree; at a later period the *liber* or inner layer of bark becomes converted into a layer of wood, the characteristic properties of the bark are much impaired, and it is with great difficulty removed from the tree.

*Leaves* are in the greatest perfection at the time of the flowering of the plant; at that period they are found to contain their characteristic products in the greatest abundance; they should be perfectly formed, and on no account beginning to wither, which they in many instances do, when the seeds are about to ripen.

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6. CORTICES ex fructibus autumnali tempore, ex arboribus autem vernali separandi.

7. LIGNA potissimum tempore hyemali abscindenda.

8. FRUCTUS plerumque colligendi postquam maturuere.

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Quod radicum collectionem attinet, semper attendamus ad vegetationem plantæ propriam, atque ex hac dijudicemus tempus eas eruendi. Earum bonitas inprimis dignoscitur ex cortice et parenchymate. Radices plantarum annuarum maximè evellantur, stirpe jam adultâ, antequam flores ferunt, biennium autumno ejus anni quo seminatæ sunt, decrescente, vel vere proximo. Ceteroquin plantis quibus vivax per plures annos radix inhæret, hanc auferamus, quum primo vere gemmæ turgere, vel folia, si hæc hyeme decidunt, se explicare videntur. Nec obliviscamur, plures plantas culturâ inefficaciores fieri, ut conium maculatum, quasdam contra tempore virtute augeri.—(*Pharmacopœia Batava*, editore J. F. Niemann, vol. i. p. 347.)



*Flowers* should, for the same reason, be gathered soon after they expand, and before the pollen falls from their anthers.

*Seeds* may, in many instances, be very properly preserved in their own pods, but this is often inconvenient, either from the bulk or liability to moulder of the seed-vessel. Some seeds may be kept for a great length of time without undergoing deterioration, especially those which abound in volatile or essential oil; they even retain their vegetative powers for years: others become rancid and unfit for use often in a few months, as the almond, the ricinus seed, and those generally in which fixed oils predominate. Seeds that are abundant in mucilaginous matter are liable to the attacks of insects and to speedy decay from moisture.

We observe no general connexion in the medical virtues of the different parts of plants. In trees, the active principles are commonly most abundant in the bark, for it is there that the perfect sap, after it has been exposed to the action of light and air in the leaves, is accumulated and deposits the peculiar secretions or products of the vegetable. This deposition and accumulation principally goes on in the spring and early part of the summer; hence the propriety of collecting barks at that season of the year, whilst the vessels are full, and new layers are forming. Of trees, therefore, the bark is the part in which the medical virtues are chiefly concentrated; the astringent matter of the oak, the aroma and bitterness of cascarilla, the peculiar salifiable principles of the various species of cinchona, and the bitter acrimony of cusparia, are all found in the respective barks of those vegetables, which, therefore, are the parts directed for officinal use.

In herbaceous plants the root is the part in which their most active principles are frequently concentrated, as we see in gentian, jalap, liquorice, hellebore, and rhubarb. In other cases the roots are inactive and the virtue resides in the leaves, as of hemlock, digitalis, senna, savine, and rue; and in others the seeds partake of some activity, as those of colchicum; while the seeds of the poppy are bland and inert. The aroma of these plants is usually associated with the essential oil of the leaves, of the flowers, or of the fruit and seeds, as in the different species of mint, in lavender and chamomile, in the orange and lemon, and in caraways, cardamoms, &c.

It is seldom that medical virtue or activity pervades every part of the plant: that part, therefore, in which it chiefly resides, and from which it is most certainly and easily obtained, should be in preference selected as officinal; and the

Materia Medica should not be encumbered, as of old, with inert, uncertain and redundant articles. If any part of the marshmallow is retained, it should be the root only; the berries or imperfect fruit of the orange tree are quite superfluous; so are the seeds of hemlock, of digitalis, and of henbane; the wood of the guaiacum tree only derives virtue from containing a little of the resin; the former therefore is uselessly kept upon the list of the articles used in medicine.

## OF THE PRESERVATION AND PREPARATION OF VEGETABLES.

### *Vegetabilium Præparatio. Preparation of Vegetables.*

Vegetabilia, brevi postquam decerpta fuerint, illis exceptis quæ recentia esse oportet, leviter strata, quàm citissimè exsicca, calore tam leni ut color non mutetur; dein in locis, vel vasis aptis, intercluso luminis et humoris accessu, conserva.

RADICES, quas recentes servari præcepimus, in arena sicca reconde. SCILLÆ RADICEM ante exsiccationem, tunicis aridis directis, transversim in laminas tenues seca.

FRUCTUS PULPOSOS, si immaturi sint, vel maturi et sicci, seponere in loco humido, ut mollescant; dein pulpas per cribrum setaceum exprime; postea coque lento igne, crebrò movens; denique, aquam balneo aquoso consume, donec pulpæ fiant idoneæ crassitudinis.

CASSIÆ LOMENTIS contusis aquam ferventem superinfunde, ut pulpa eluatur, quam per cribrum grandioribus foraminibus primùm exprime, postea per setaceum; deinde aquam balneo aquoso consume, donec pulpa idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

Vegetables, shortly after they are gathered, excepting those which ought to be used fresh, should be lightly spread, and dried as quickly as possible by the aid of so gentle a heat that their colour may not be changed. They should then be kept in places or convenient vessels, excluded from light and moisture.

Lay up those Roots, which we have directed to be kept fresh, in dry sand. Cut the root of the SQUILL, before it is dried, into thin transverse slices, previously peeling off the dry layers.

Put PULPY FRUITS, if unripe, or if ripe and dry, in a moist place to soften; then press the pulp through a hair-sieve; boil it afterwards over a slow fire, frequently stirring it; lastly, evaporate the water by a water-bath until the pulps have acquired a proper consistency.

Pour boiling water upon the bruised CASSIA PODS, so that the pulp may be washed out; press this first through a coarse sieve, and afterwards through a hair sieve; then evaporate the water on a water-bath until the pulp has a proper consistency.



Fructuum maturorum et recentium pulpam vel succum per cribrum exprime, nullâ coctione adhibitâ.

OPIMUM à rebus alienis, præsertim externis, quam diligentissimè separa. Servetur Opium *molle*, quod ad pilulas fingendas aptum sit, et *durum*, quod balneo aquoso ita exsiccatum fuerit, ut in pulverem teri possit.

Gummi-Resinæ pro optimis habendæ sunt, quæ electæ fuerint adeo sinceræ, ut nullâ purificatione opus sit. Quòd si minus puræ esse videantur, coque in aqua, donec mollescant, et prelo exprime per pannum cannabinum; dein sepone, ut pars resinosa subsidat. Liquorem supernatentem effusam balneo aquoso consume, adjectâ sub finem parte resinosâ, ut cum parte gummosâ in unum coeat.

GUMMI-RESINÆ facile liquescentes purificari possunt, injiciendo in vesicam bubulam, tenendoque in aqua fervente, donec adèò molles fiant, ut per pannum cannabinum à sordibus prelo separari possint.

STYRACIS BALSAMUM in Spiritu rectificato liqua, et cola; tum leni calore destillet spiritus, donec idonea crassitudo Balsamo fiat.

Of fruits that are ripe and fresh, press the pulp or juice through a sieve, without boiling.

Separate OPIMUM very carefully from all extraneous substances, especially from those which are external. Let Opium be kept *soft*, fit to form pills; and *hard*, by so drying it on a water-bath, that it may be reduced to powder.

Those Gum-Resins are to be preferred, which can be selected so clean as to require no purification. If, however, they appear to be impure, boil them in water until they soften, and squeeze them in a press through a hempen cloth; then set them by, that the resinous part may subside. Pour off the supernatant liquor, evaporate it by the aid of a water-bath, and towards the end of the evaporation mix the resinous part intimately with the gummy.

The easily fusible Gum-Resins may be purified by putting them into an ox bladder, and keeping them in boiling Water until they become soft enough to be separated from their impurities by pressing through a hempen cloth.

Dissolve STORAX BALSAM in rectified Spirit, and strain; then let the Spirit distil over by the aid of a gentle heat until the Balsam has acquired a proper consistence.

Upon these subjects the directions of the London Pharmacopœia are perhaps rather too concise. The temperature at which vegetable substances are dried for pharmaceutical use should rarely fall short of 100°, nor should it ever exceed 212°. For such operations the heat of steam is preferable to any other, as, under common pressure, it can never be so raised as materially to injure the vegetable; whereas drying stoves heated by flues, or, as is often the case, by iron chimneys traversing them, are liable to become so hot as more or less to parch and decompose the substances that are merely intended to be desiccated. In constructing drying stoves, the greatest attention should be paid to their thorough ventilation; fresh and warmed air should be abundantly admitted from below,

and there should be a corresponding series of apertures above to carry off the heated air and the vapour from the goods that are drying. In some few instances, drying in the open air and sunshine is to be preferred to other methods; but light discolours and probably affects the medical efficacy of some plants, which, therefore, under such circumstances, require to be kept from the light, and dried by artificial heat.

If roots are to be preserved fresh, moist, and not dry, sand is the best material to bury them in. The only root directed by the Pharmacopœia to be thus kept, is that of colchicum, but a better method of preserving it in an uniform and active state consists in cutting it into thin slices, and very carefully drying them in the usual way. Squills should be cut transversely into very thin slices, and these rapidly but cautiously dried until they become brittle and easily reducible to powder. The dried root should be kept in a dry and warm place, for in a damp air it becomes tough and often mouldy, and loses much of its acrimony; this also happens to the powdered squill, which should be used freshly pulverised, and should be prepared in small quantities at a time; or, if in larger, should be excluded from air and moisture.

The pulpy parts of fruits retained in our present *Materia Medica* are those of the tamarind and cassia pod, of the dog-rose, and of prunes, to none of which, nor indeed to any others, can the directions of the Pharmacopœia be applied. The usual mode of obtaining the pulpy part of such fruits as have become dry and indurated consists in softening them by exposure to steam, or by a small quantity of boiling water, until they admit of being rubbed through a proper sieve; in short, they are to be treated nearly in the same way as is directed for the extraction of the pulp of cassia pods.

Opium, when it has been cleansed from adhering and extraneous substances, should be dried in a temperature below  $212^{\circ}$ , until it no longer loses weight; it then becomes sufficiently hard to admit of being powdered and sifted, in which state only it should be used for pharmaceutical preparations and medical prescriptions. In the *soft* state adverted to in the above directions, the quantity of water which it retains is very variable, and materially affects the virtues of an article of so much activity. In prescribing opium in pills, therefore, it is better to use the *pulvis opii* with a sufficiency of mucilage of gum arabic or of conserve of roses, than to rely upon the *opium molle* which the Pharmacopœia reserves for that purpose.

The gum resins directed for medical use in the present



Pharmacopœia are ammoniacum, assafoetida, gamboge, euphorbium, galbanum, olibanum, opoponax, sagapenum, and scammony; these may generally be procured sufficiently free from impurities for medical use; but as the virtues of several of them depend principally upon the volatile oil which they contain, the process of softening them in boiling water until they admit of being pressed through hempen cloth would manifestly injure them; while upon others, such a process cannot in any way be performed, as they are hardened by the above temperature. The best mode of cleansing ammoniacum, assafoetida, and galbanum, is to pulverise and sift them in very cold weather; the powder afterwards agglutinates, which is of no consequence.

Storax, even approaching to a genuine state, is very rarely indeed to be found, except in the cabinets of the curious: when pure, it of course requires no purification; and when impure, the process above directed is inefficient, for it is adulterated with substances soluble in alcohol.

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### EXPRESSED OILS.

The expressed vegetable oils employed in English pharmacy are those of the almond, of linseed and castor seed, of the olive, of the seeds of the croton tiglium, and of nutmegs. They are all fluid at common temperatures, with the exception of the oil of nutmeg, which is solid and in the form usually called a *vegetable butter*. Olive oil, almond oil, and linseed oil, are bland, and almost inert; castor oil is mildly aperient; croton oil virulently purgative; and oil of nutmeg is useless as a medicine, being only employed in one preparation for external use, probably on account of the odour that it derives from adhering essential oil.

These oils are insoluble in water, but more or less soluble in alcohol and in ether. When intended for internal use they are frequently blended with or diffused through water by trituration, with mucilage of gum arabic, or with yelk of egg. For this purpose the mucilage should not be too thick, and the oil gradually added to it under constant trituration, so as to form a glossy and uniform mixture, to which the requisite portion of water may afterwards be by degrees added. Fixed oils become rancid and thick by age, and in that state are unfit for medical use; the seeds from which they are obtained should also be fresh, and they should be expressed without the aid of heat.

They should be kept in cellars, or places which, though cool, are not cold enough to allow of their congelation<sup>1</sup>.

### *Oleum Amygdalarum.*

Amygdalas vel dulces vel amaras, in Aquâ frigidâ macera per horas duodecim, et contunde; deinde, nullo calore adhibito, Oleum exprime.

### *Oil of Almonds.*

Macerate either sweet or bitter Almonds in cold water for twelve hours, and bruise them; then, without employing heat, express the Oil.

Unless the almonds are dirty or dusty, no benefit is obtained by the maceration in cold water; they should be finely bruised, and under due pressure without the aid of heat they yield nearly half their weight of oil, which at first is somewhat turbid, but becomes clear by deposition, or may easily be obtained so by filtration through coarse paper in a warm room. The oil is then of a very pale greenish straw colour, insipid and inodorous, whether obtained from sweet or bitter almonds, the essential oil and prussic acid of the latter remaining entirely in combination with the mucilaginous and other ingredients that compose the cake from which the fixed oil has been abstracted (see page 27). It is said that the expressed oil of the bitter almond has less tendency to become rancid than that of the sweet, and for the same reason the oil expressed without heat is preferred.

The medical uses of almond oil correspond with those of olive oil, and have already been noticed in describing their sources, in the *Materia Medica* (pages 26 and 153), where also will be found some formulæ for their administration.

Almond oil, though aperient in large doses, is scarcely employed with that view, and is only used in emulsions and other demulcent formulæ. In addition to those already given at page 4, and at page 26, the following will be found useful in allaying the tickling and irritating cough consequent upon catarrh:—

R Conservæ Rosæ Caninæ ℥ij.

Syrupi Papaveris f ℥ss. tere simul et adde gradatim,

Olei Amygdalarum f ℥ss.

Misce optimè ut fiat linctus cujus sumatur cochleare unum minimum subinde.

<sup>1</sup> In respect to the presses used in the pharmaceutical laboratory for the expression of fixed oils and other purposes, great advantage will be found in the use of what is commonly called the *hydraulic press*, in respect to saving time and power; compared with these the screw-presses, worked by hand, are very ineffective and inconvenient. A good hydraulic press of a sufficient power, with all the necessary apparatus for pharmaceutical purposes, may be purchased at an expense of about 200*l*.



The almond cake from which the oil has been expressed, when finely pulverised, furnishes *almond meal*, an excellent basis for *hand powders*, especially when of bitter almonds.

R Farinæ Amygdalarum ℥xij.  
Saponis pulverisati ℥iij.  
Benzoini Pulver. ℥j.  
Fiant pulvis detergens manualis.

### *Oleum Lini.*

### *Linseed Oil.*

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Lini usitatissimi Semina contunde; deinde, nullo calore adhibito, Oleum exprime. |  | Bruise the Linseed; then, without using heat, express the Oil. |
|--|--|--|

Linseed oil is scarcely ever expressed in the pharmaceutical laboratory; for the purposes of pharmacy it is employed as met with in commerce, the seeds having been considerably heated previous to expression. It is gently aperient, but rarely used internally on account of its very unpleasant flavour. As an external application, it is employed in extensive burns and scalds, sometimes mixed with lime water, and sometimes with the addition of oil of turpentine. The following is the common “*linimentum oleosum*” of the London Hospitals, applicable in these cases:—

R Olei Lini f℥iss  
Liquoris Calcis f℥iij. M.

But the following liniment, upon Mr. Kentish’s principle, is to be preferred:—

R Olei Lini f℥iv.  
Olei Terebinthinæ f℥ij.  
Misce. Fiant linimentum partibus affectis applicandum.

It is above all things important in cases of extensive burns or scalds to apply a remedy of this kind immediately upon the occurrence of the accident; much pain is thus prevented, and, what is more important, the extent of the subsequent vesication is generally much diminished, and the cure proportionately accelerated. If, on such occasions, oil of turpentine cannot immediately be procured, spirit of wine, gin, rum, or brandy, should be applied.

Linseed oil is a good addition to poultices, and upon the same principle *linseed meal* is employed; but the latter is usually the powdered cake from which the oil has been expressed, and is a very inferior article to freshly powdered lin-

seed, the greasiness of which contributes to the permanent softness required in a mollifying poultice.

Cold drawn linseed oil has but little taste and colour, but it soon acquires a very rancid flavour, and becomes more disagreeable than that which has been expressed at a higher temperature. 1 cwt. of linseed yields from 18 to 20 lbs. of such oil.

### *Oleum Ricini.*

Ricini Semina, demptis pelliculis, contunde; deinde, nullo calore adhibito, Oleum exprime.

### *Castor Oil.*

Having taken off the outer coat of Castor Seeds, bruise them; then, without using heat, express the Oil.

The British market is almost exclusively supplied with this oil from the East Indies: it is of a very pale-yellow colour, and has but little smell or taste, both of which are, however, nauseous and disagreeable; it is very slightly acrid upon the palate. Its medical uses have been described above, under the article “Ricini Oleum et Semina,” in the *Materia Medica*, and formulæ for its exhibition will be found at pages 143, 170, and 183.

The castor oil, as formerly imported from the West Indies, is deep-coloured, rancid, and more purgative than the former, and is not fit to be used where the other can be obtained. When expressed in this country, the seeds have generally become rancid, and the oil is disagreeable, and sometimes drastic, for it is not easy to free the seeds from their external husks, in which, as has already been remarked, a virulently purgative substance resides.—(See page 182.)

### *Olea Destillata.*

OLEUM ANISI,  
 ANTHEMIDIS,  
 CARUI,  
 JUNIPERI,  
 LAVANDULÆ,  
 MENTHÆ PIPERITÆ,  
 MENTHÆ VIRIDIS,  
 ORIGANI,  
 PIMENTÆ,  
 PULEGII,  
 ROSMARINI,

Anisi et Carui Semina, Anthemidis et Lavandulæ Flores, Juniperi et Pi-

### *Distilled Oils.*

OIL OF ANISE,  
 CHAMOMILE,  
 CARAWAY,  
 JUNIPER,  
 LAVENDER,  
 PEPPERMINT,  
 SPEARMINT,  
 MARJORAM,  
 PIMENTA,  
 PENNYROYAL,  
 ROSEMARY.

The Seeds of Anise and Caraway, the Flowers of Chamomile and Lavender,



mentæ Baccæ, Rosmarini Cacumina, et reliquorum Herbæ recentes, adhibenda sunt.

Horum quodvis in alembicum immitte, et Aquæ adjice quantum id contegat; tum in vas frigidarium amplum destillet Oleum.

Aqua, quæ inter destillandum cum Oleis Carui, Menthæ piperitæ, et viridis, Pimentæ, et Pulegii prodit, in usum servetur.

the Berries of Juniper and Pimenta, the Tops of Rosemary, and the fresh Herbs of the rest, are to be employed.

Put a portion of these into an alembic, and add as much Water as will cover it, then let the Oil distil over into a large refrigeratory vessel.

The Water which distils over with the Oils of Caraway, Peppermint, Spearmint, Pimenta, and Pennyroyal, is to be kept for use.

To the above list of officinal distilled oils are to be added the following, which will be found in the list of the *Materia Medica*, as being almost exclusively imported from abroad, viz.—

OIL OF CAJUPUTI,  
CLOVES,  
CINNAMON,  
LEMON-PEEL.

*Oil of Aniseed* is not frequently distilled in this country, by far the larger proportion of that which is here consumed being imported chiefly from Spain, of a good quality, and a much lower price than that at which it can be prepared at home. Some of its uses and properties have already been described (p. 31). It is a warm carminative and antispasmodic, less stimulating than the generality of these oils, and as such is occasionally added to pills and powders in cases of flatulency and colic. The oil distilled in this country, from select seeds, is somewhat more fragrant and agreeable than the foreign.

*Oil of Chamomile* has a disagreeable odour, and a pungent nauseous taste: antispasmodic powers have sometimes been attributed to it, and hence it is occasionally added to purging pills, with a view to prevent griping. The dose is from three to six drops. The following pills have been found useful in indigestion attended with spasmodic pain of the stomach, flatulency, and tendency to costiveness:—

℞ Pulveris Rhei ℥ss.

Aloës Spic. Extr. gr. x.

Olei Anthemidis ℥xxx.

Divide in pilulas decem, quarum sumatur una ante prandium et vespere quotidie.

*Oil of Caraway Seed* is very warm and pungent, and of an agreeable flavour. A few drops are frequently incorporated with pill masses to prevent flatulency, and it is sometimes added to powders for the same purpose, and to cover unpleasant flavours, as in the following purgative:—

R Jalapæ Pulver. gr. x.  
 Scammoniæ Pulv. gr. v.  
 Potassæ Sulphatis ʒj.  
 Olei Carui mʒj.

Fiat pulvis purgans ex aliquo vehiculo idoneo sumendus.

A liniment, containing this oil, has been recommended (not probably on good grounds) as an application to the abdomen in flatulent colic—

R Unguenti Cetacei ʒj.  
 Olei Carui,  
 Tincturæ Opii, aa fʒj.  
 Misce. Fiat Linimentum Carminativum.

*Oil of Juniper Berries.* Under the article “*Juniperi Baccæ*,” in the *Materia Medica*, the principal uses of this oil are detailed; and to it the diuretic action and virtue of the berries may be solely ascribed. It is very sparingly soluble in alcohol.

*Oil of Lavender Flowers.* Some account of the sources and properties of this oil will be found at page 135. Its principal use is as a perfume (see *Spiritus Lavandulæ*), and it is rarely used internally, though once much celebrated for its anti-nervous efficacy. Added to ointments containing sulphur, it tends considerably to disguise the odour of that substance.—(See *Unguentum Sulphuris*.)

*Oil of Peppermint.* The average produce of this oil from a given quantity of herb, and its general properties, have been adverted to under the head “*Mentha Piperita*,” in the *Materia Medica*. It is a powerful and useful stimulant and cordial, pungent upon the tongue, and leaving a peculiar sensation of coldness. In spasmodic and flatulent pains of the stomach and bowels, in cramp, faintness, and nausea, it is a favourite remedy, a drop or two being taken upon a lump of sugar, or triturated with a little powdered sugar. *Peppermint drops* are a common and convenient domestic form for the administration of oil of peppermint; they are made as follows:—4 ounces of white sugar in fine powder are put into a bright copper ladle, made shallow, and with a lip to it, and constantly stirred over a clear charcoal fire, till so hot as not to be borne by the hand. 24 minims of oil of peppermint and half a fluidounce of peppermint water are then added, and the whole rapidly stirred together, till of such consistency as barely to admit of being dropped out by the assistance of a spatula, upon a piece of polished marble, where the drops speedily harden, and are afterwards to be dried in a very gentle heat. *Peppermint Lozenges* are a mixture of starch, sugar, and mucilage of tragacanth, flavoured with oil of peppermint.



*Oil of Spearmint* is applied to the same purposes as oil of peppermint, but is considerably more expensive, and of a less agreeable flavour. From two to five drops may be given with a little sugar.

*Oil of Marjoram.* This is an acrid and pungent oil, of an agreeable odour, the use of which is confined to external applications; it is very rarely employed. The average produce of essential oil from this herb is 1 lb. from 2 cwt.; but, as in other cases, it varies exceedingly with the season and the culture of the plant.

*Oil of Pimenta* has the pleasant odour and taste of allspice, and is occasionally added to pills or powders, with a view to prevent flatulency and spasm, or to conceal disagreeable flavours. The quantity of essential oil obtained from a given weight of pimenta berries is very various: it fluctuates between 1-20th and 100th part.

*Oil of Pennyroyal* is now scarcely used; it once had considerable reputation as an emmenagogue, and is occasionally added, under that intention, to aloetic and chalybeate pills. The fresh herb yields on an average from 1-120th to 1-100th of its weight of oil.

The uses of the other officinal essential oils will be found under their respective heads, in the list of the *Materia Medica*.

The essential or volatile oils have, like the fixed oils, hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon for their ultimate elements: in their relative proportions, hydrogen and carbon appear predominant, and they contain a smaller relative quantity of oxygen than the fat or fixed oils. Various experiments have been made to determine the exact proportions of carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen contained in these bodies, but the results of different experimentalists are too much at variance to admit of any satisfactory deductions. Dr. Ure analysed very carefully purified oil of turpentine, with the following results:—

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Carbon .....  | 84.9             |
| Hydrogen..... | 11.5             |
| Oxygen.....   | 3.6              |
|               | <hr/>            |
|               | 100 <sup>1</sup> |

The following ultimate elements of castor oil are subjoined from the same authority, by way of comparison:—

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<sup>1</sup> Dictionary of Chemistry, 2d edit. p. 800.

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Carbon .....   | 74·00            |
| Hydrogen ..... | 10·29            |
| Oxygen.....    | 15·71            |
|                | <hr/>            |
|                | 100 <sup>1</sup> |

Essential oils are, with few exceptions, obtained during the distillation of the part of the plant which affords them with water, in which they are but sparingly soluble, so that the greater portion of the oil is collected either floating upon, or at the bottom of the water, according to its specific gravity, some being heavier, but the greater number lighter than that liquid, as shown in the following table :—

*Specific Gravities of the officinal Essential Oils.*

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Oil of Aniseed (English).....                 | ·9868 |
| ———— (Foreign).....                           | ·9903 |
| ——— Cajuputi .....                            | ·9263 |
| ——— Caraway .....                             | ·9310 |
| ——— Chamomile (English, from flowers only) .. | ·9083 |
| ———— (Foreign) .....                          | ·9289 |
| ——— Cinnamon.....                             | 1·036 |
| ——— Cassia.....                               | 1·071 |
| ——— Cloves .....                              | 1·052 |
| ——— Juniper (English).....                    | ·8688 |
| ———— (Foreign).....                           | ·8834 |
| ——— Lavender (English, from flowers only).... | ·8960 |
| ———— (from the whole herb) .                  | ·9206 |
| ——— Lemonpeel .....                           | ·8569 |
| ——— Marjoram.....                             | ·9090 |
| ——— Pennyroyal.....                           | ·9390 |
| ——— Peppermint .....                          | ·9070 |
| ——— Pimenta .....                             | 1·021 |
| ——— Rosemary .....                            | ·9118 |
| ——— Spearmint.....                            | ·9394 |
| ——— Turpentine .....                          | ·8700 |

The produce of essential oil from herbs is in most cases not materially affected by drying them: in some instances, the odour and quality of the oil is ameliorated, in others deteriorated, by their previous desiccation; they are, however, commonly used in their fresh or recent state by the great distillers of essential oils in the neighbourhood of London, by whom the pharmaceutical market is largely supplied. The still and refrigeratory should be capacious, and a sufficiency of water should be used to cover the vegetable, previously cut into pieces, or bruised, and not more than to fill two-thirds of the

<sup>1</sup> Dictionary of Chemistry, 2d edit. p. 801.



boiler. The fire should be moderate, and care should be taken to prevent empyreuma, and also to avoid the boiling up of the materials into the still-head; distillation by the heat imparted by steam under moderate pressure is here preferable to all other methods. The process should be continued as long as the water comes over flavoured by the vegetable, and may be put a stop to when it becomes nearly insipid. It is generally, in cases where the oil is lighter than water, suffered to run into a recipient of glass, having a pipe issuing from near its bottom, like the spout of a teapot, and of such height as to suffer the water to run off before it is quite full; the oil remains in the vessel, and ultimately fills it. If the oil be heavier than water, it is collected in a vessel the waste water-pipe of which issues from its upper part, so that the oil, sinking, remains in it until full. The oil and water may afterwards be more completely separated, either by a siphon, or by a separatory funnel. The water which in this process distils over with the oil, should be retained for a second distillation with the herb, inasmuch as it already is saturated with its essential oil, and consequently the product in oil of the subsequent will be greater than that of the first distillations. When dry seeds are used as the source of essential oils, they are sometimes steeped for several hours in water, previous to distillation; so also are cloves, cinnamon, and allspice; and a portion of salt is sometimes put into the still in order to elevate the boiling point of the water; but these are very unnecessary proceedings.

The essential oils are also called *volatile oils* in consequence of the readiness with which they rise in distillation along with the vapour of water; but when they are distilled *alone*, a process sometimes had recourse to under the erroneous idea of rectifying or purifying them, it is found that they require a higher temperature considerably than  $212^{\circ}$  for their evaporation, and that they suffer a manifest deterioration and change; they deposit resinous matter, become less odorous, and less volatile: if therefore distilled with a view to their purification and improvement, they should always be mixed with water. Many of these oils contain camphor, and several of them benzoic acid, which substances they sometimes deposit spontaneously in crystals. Exposed for a long time to light, they generally become pale or colourless, and in the contact of air they acquire viscosity, and some of them assume resinous characters. They are almost all perfectly soluble to any extent in alcohol and in ether: the alcoholic solutions are often known under the name of *essences*. They are sometimes adulterated with alcohol, which may be separated by agitating them with water, and its quantity appreciated by the diminution of bulk

which they thus suffer : this adulteration is also manifested by a slight increase of temperature ensuing when they are thus mixed with water, and which is not observed in the case of pure essential oil. Their adulteration with fixed oils is very readily detected by the greasy stain which they in that case leave when dropped upon paper and held near the fire ; after the evaporation of the pure oil, under such circumstances, there only remains a slight discoloration, which may be written over with a pen and ink, not being of a greasy nature.

Some essential oils are obtained by mere pressure, as those of lemon, orange, and bergamotte, which exist in vesicles in the rind of the ripe fruit ; others are of so delicate a nature as to be impaired or decomposed even by the most careful distillation, such as those which confer odour upon the flowers of jasmine, and of the tuberose. These are only valued as perfumes, and are procured for that purpose by steeping the flowers in some perfectly pure and inodorous fixed oil, which abstracts the odorous principle of the flower, and from which it may be transferred to alcohol, so as to form a spirituous essence. The same perfume cannot be obtained either by steeping the flowers in alcohol, or by distilling them either with it or with water.

In the *Materia Medica*, the essential oils rank among the more powerful stimulants, and as such they are both externally and internally employed. In addition to the modes of prescribing them already adverted to, some *Pharmacopœiæ* direct them in powders blended with sugar ; but these should be left to extemporaneous prescription, in consequence of the loss of power and of flavour which they sustain when kept, even for a very short time. They have been called *elæosacchara*, and are usually prepared by triturating together in a mortar half a drachm of the essential oil, with an ounce and a half of powdered white sugar.

### *Oleum Succini.*

In alembicum immitte Succinum, ut destillent balneo arenæ, calore paulatim aucto, Liquor acidus, Oleum, et Sal oleo inquinatus. Dein, iterum et tertio Oleum destillet.

### *Oil of Amber.*

Put Amber into an alembic, so that from a sand-bath gradually heated, an acid Liquor, an Oil, and a Salt contaminated by the Oil, may distil. Then let the Oil be distilled a second and a third time.

The *salt* mentioned in this formula is impure succinic acid, now properly rejected from pharmacy. The oil is at first very brown and thick, but by redistillation it is in some measure



purified, becoming thinner, and of a paler colour. Both the acid and the oil are the products of the action of heat upon the amber, and did not pre-exist in it. Rectified oil of amber has a pungent acrid taste, and a peculiar but not very unpleasant odour; it is insoluble in water, and sparingly soluble only in alcohol, partaking, in some of its characters, of the chemical properties of certain species of bitumen. This oil, in doses of from five to fifteen minims, was once highly esteemed as an antispasmodic stimulant, and as such often prescribed in hysterical and convulsive affections either in pills, or diffused by the aid of mucilage or of yolk of egg, in any aromatic water. It is now scarcely ever used, except in the form of a liniment; and as it appears to possess no peculiar efficacy beyond that of a stimulant, its strong odour is against its employment. The following liniment, rubbed upon the chest two or three times a day, is by some recommended in whooping-cough:—

R Spiritus Camphorati,  
Tincturæ Opii,  
Olei Succini, aa f ʒss.  
Fiat linimentum.

A celebrated empirical remedy for this disease, known under the name of *Roche's Embrocation*, is said to be composed as follows:—

R Olei Succini,  
Olei Caryophyllorum, aa f ʒss.  
Olei Olivæ f ʒj.  
Misce. Fiant embrocatio.

### *Oleum Terebinthinæ Rectificatum.*

### *Rectified Oil of Turpentine.*

R Olei Terebinthinæ octarium,  
Aquæ octarios quatuor;  
Destillet Oleum.

Take of Oil of Turpentine, a pint,  
Water, four pints;  
Let the Oil be distilled.

Oil of turpentine, as it comes into the market from the wholesale manufacturer, is generally sufficiently pure for all pharmaceutical purposes; should this not be the case, the above process may be resorted to: the residue is usually a little resinous matter.

The medical uses of this oil are described above, under the article "*Terebinthina vulgaris*," in the *Materia Medica*, and its excellence as an application to burns and scalds has been

noticed at page 356. In chemical properties, oil of turpentine differs from the essential oils ; it is very sparingly soluble in alcohol, whereas the turpentine whence it is obtained dissolves with facility in that menstruum. The other essential oils are for the most part readily soluble in it, and it is not unfrequently used in their adulteration. An article known to painters, under the name of *oil of spike*, is generally a mixture of the essential oils of lavender and turpentine. It dissolves camphor, and the solution furnishes a useful stimulating liniment.

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### DISTILLED WATERS.

The medicated distilled waters may generally be regarded as aqueous solutions of the essential oils : some of them, therefore, are warm and stimulating ; others are merely used for the sake of their odour or perfume. Those now retained in the London Pharmacopœia are amply sufficient for medical use, but they are extremely few in number compared with those formerly employed, and even at present directed to be kept, in foreign Pharmacopœiæ. It was once customary to have a distilled water of every odorous vegetable, and of many that are inodorous, and contain no volatile principle ; such were the *aqua lactucæ*, *centaurei*, *cardui benedicti*, *papaveris rhæados*, and many others now extant in the Parisian *Codex Medicamentarius*.

In the following list of distilled waters, those from aromatic herbs are directed to be obtained either from the recent or the dried herb, or an equivalent portion of the essential oil of the plant is substituted. Where the recent herb is used, twice the weight of that in the dried state is prescribed, and it is in most cases immaterial which is employed, though the distilled water from the dried herb is generally more fragrant, and keeps better than the former. The tendency of distilled waters to decompose and become sour appears in some instances to depend upon vegetable matter, perhaps mucilaginous, carried over in distillation, and is less likely to occur where dry vegetables are used than where they are employed fresh ; and still less where the essential oils are employed. Even in the latter case, however, the oil and water appear sometimes to react upon each other, and their qualities are slowly changed ; so that the distilled waters should be frequently freshly prepared, and those which are spoiling rejected.

In these distillations the still should not be more than two-thirds full, and the relative quantity of the water to that of



the herb, or other material, should be such as that there may be a sufficiency remaining after the operation effectually to prevent empyreuma. In consequence of the extreme variety in the quantity of essential oil contained in the same kind of vegetable at different times, it is impossible to predetermine the quantity of the distilled water which may be drawn off; this should be left to the operator, who may continue the distillation until the odour and taste of the water have very perceptibly diminished.

Recently distilled waters are apt to have a peculiar and somewhat disagreeable odour, commonly called *smelling of the still*, which they lose by short exposure to air, or by keeping for a few days, especially at a low temperature. They should be preserved in stone bottles, placed in a cool cellar, and the supernatant essential oil should in most cases be removed. Sometimes the addition of a little alcohol prevents these waters from becoming vapid and sour; in other cases it seems rather to accelerate those changes: the London College, however, directs five fluidounces of proof spirit to be added to each gallon of the distilled waters; an unnecessary addition, and, in the case of rose-water, often very inconvenient.

### *Aqua Destillata.*

R Aquæ congios decem ;

Destillent primùm octarii quatuor, quibus abjectis, destillent congii quatuor. Aquam destillatam in lagena vitrea serva.

Aquarum quæ sequuntur singulis congiis adjice Spiritûs tenuioris fluiduncias quinque, ut integræ conserventur.

### *Distilled Water.*

Take of Water, ten gallons ;

First distil four pints ; these being thrown away, distil four gallons for use. Keep distilled Water in a glass bottle.

To each gallon of the following Waters, add five fluidounces of proof Spirit for the purpose of preventing their decomposition.

Common water invariably contains more or less of foreign matter, from which it may be freed by the process of distillation : any volatile substances come over with the first portions, which are therefore ordered to be rejected, and the fixed and saline contents are retained by that which remains in the still. The impurities most commonly occurring in river water, independent of those which are merely diffused through and not dissolved in it, are common salt, carbonate of lime, and sulphate of lime ; the latter is usually very abundant in the water

of the superficial springs in and near London, but the water of the deep and overflowing wells is often entirely free from it, and sometimes contains little else than traces of common salt and carbonate of soda.

A common and useful test of the general purity of water is a solution of soap in alcohol: dropped into distilled water, it occasions no turbidness; in those purer spring and river waters which are soft and fit for washing, it occasions only a slight opalescence; hard water it renders milky and turbid, and occasions in it a white precipitate. To judge of the nature of the saline matter which water holds dissolved, other tests must be resorted to. The precipitate occasioned by nitrate of silver usually indicates common salt; the presence of sulphates is shown when muriate of baryta occasions a white cloud; and lime is announced by a similar appearance on dropping a solution of oxalate of ammonia into the water. The presence of carbonate of soda may be suspected in water, which, when evaporated to about one-tenth its original bulk, changes the yellow colour of paper stained with turmeric, to brown. By pure distilled water, none of the above tests are affected.

Distilled water is always vapid and disagreeable, but it often also has a foreign flavour derived from the still, and which it is almost impossible to avoid, unless a still and condenser be kept exclusively for it. Where this cannot be done, the best mode of cleansing the apparatus consists in driving steam for half an hour through the condensing pipe, having previously emptied the worm-tub.

Though the use of distilled water is unnecessary in the greater number of medical prescriptions, there are some in which its employment is very essential, as where solution of nitrate of silver, or of acetate of lead, or corrosive sublimate, is employed, and generally where small quantities of very active remedies are to be administered in a dissolved state, or to be externally applied, as in collyria. In such cases, where distilled water is directed, common water is too frequently substituted: hence the advantage of prescribing some of the medicated waters in such cases, which, except in very gross instances of neglect<sup>1</sup>, must have been distilled.

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<sup>1</sup> Sometimes a few drops of essential oil upon a lump of sugar, dissolved in common water, is substituted for the proper distilled water; and rose-water is often manufactured upon the same principle, by adding a little *esprit de rose* to common water.



*Aqua Anethi.*

℞ Anethi Seminum contusorum libram ;

His affunde tantum Aquæ, ut, post distillationem, supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma. Destillet congius.

*Dill Water.*

Take of Dill Seeds bruised, a pound ;

Pour upon them such quantity of Water, that, after distillation, enough may remain to prevent empyreuma. Let one gallon distil over.

This is the most useful of the aromatic waters in relieving flatulency and hiccup in very young children, to whom a dessert-spoonful may be given occasionally. It is also a good vehicle for small doses of the saline aperients and of magnesia.

Dill water very recently distilled has almost always a peculiar nauseous flavour, which it loses on keeping, provided it has been distilled from clean and healthy seeds, the selection of which requires attention—(See *Anethi Semina* in the *Materia Medica*.)

*Aqua Carui.*

℞ Carui Seminum contusorum libram ;

His affunde tantum Aquæ, ut, post distillationem, supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma. Destillet congius.

*Caraway Water.*

Take of Caraway Seeds, bruised, a pound ;

Pour upon them so much Water, that, after distillation, a sufficiency may remain to prevent empyreuma. Distil one gallon.

This water is almost rendered superfluous by the preceding ; its flavour is, however, upon the whole, more agreeable than that of dill water, and it is more efficient in covering the taste of some nauseous remedies which may be blended with, or dissolved in it.

In the distillation of this and of the preceding water, there usually remains floating upon it so large an excess of essential oil as to lead to the supposition that the relative proportion of seed directed to be employed is too large ; but, if we use a smaller quantity, although we still find excess of oil, the water is very deficient in flavour : the above proportions ought therefore to be retained.

*Aqua Cinnamomi.*

℞ Cinnamomi Corticis contusi libram  
vel

*Cinnamon Water.*

Take of Cinnamon Bark, bruised, a pound, or

Olei Cinnamomi *pondere* scrupulos quinque ;

Oleo, vel Cortici in aqua per horas, quatuor et viginti macerato, affunde tantum Aquæ, ut, post destillationem, supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma. Destillet congius.

Oil of Cinnamon, *by weight*, five scruples ;

Upon the Oil, or upon the Bark macerated in Water for twenty-four hours, pour such a quantity of water, that, after the distillation, enough may remain to prevent empyreuma. Let one gallon be distilled.

This is a very fragrant and pleasant aromatic water ; it has the sweetness and pungency of cinnamon without its astringency, and is a good vehicle for concealing the flavour of many nauseous remedies. It is, however, a heating and stimulating water, and therefore requires, in many instances, to be so diluted as to enable us to avail ourselves of its pleasant flavour only, while at other times it is used as a stimulant.

Cinnamon water is most agreeable and fragrant when the picked bark is used in its distillation ; the quantity of the essential oil equivalent to a pound of common bark appears to be about two fluidrachms. Cassia buds distilled with water afford a product not unlike cinnamon water in flavour and sweetness, and they are not unfrequently substituted for the more expensive bark.

Foreign physicians are very much in the habit of ordering aqueous solutions of bitter extracts, instead of the infusions and decoctions which we usually employ, and they generally select cinnamon water as the most palatable and effective vehicle. Extract of taraxacum and extract of Peruvian bark are very commonly prescribed in this way.

### *Aqua Fœniculi.*

R Fœniculi Seminum contusorum libram ;

His affunde tantum Aquæ, ut, post destillationem, supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma. Destillet congius.

### *Fennel Water.*

Take of Fennel Seeds, bruised, a pound ;

Pour so much Water upon them, that, after distillation, a sufficiency may remain to prevent empyreuma. Distil one gallon.

Fennel water has a vapid sweetish taste, but it very soon loses all flavour, in consequence of the deposition of its essential oil, which, in cold weather, separates in small crystals. It is a very useless preparation, and scarcely ever met with in prescriptions.



*Aqua Menthæ Piperitæ.*

R Menthæ piperitæ exsiccata<sup>1</sup> libram  
cum semisse, *vel*  
Olei Menthæ piperitæ *pondere*  
drachmas tres;

Herbæ vel Oleo affunde tantum  
Aquæ, ut, post destillationem, supersit  
quod satis sit ad prohibendum em-  
pyreuma. Destillet congius.

*Peppermint Water.*

Take of peppermint dried<sup>1</sup>, a pound  
and a half, *or*  
Oil of Peppermint, *by weight*,  
three drachms;

Pour upon the Herb or on the Oil  
so much Water, that, after distillation  
a sufficient quantity may remain to  
prevent empyreuma. Let one gallon  
be distilled.

Peppermint furnishes one of the most useful of the dis-  
tilled waters; it is warm and yet not heating, and agreeable  
to the stomach, if not to the palate. It is properly selected  
as the concomitant of several purgative medicines, more  
especially of those containing senna, rhubarb, and other nau-  
seating remedies of that class. A glass of warm peppermint  
water is an effectual carminative, and adapted to relieve  
spasmodic pains of the stomach.

*Aqua Menthæ Viridis.*

R Menthæ viridis exsiccata<sup>1</sup> libram  
cum semisse, *vel*  
Olei Menthæ viridis *pondere*  
drachmas tres;

Herbæ vel Oleo affunde tantum  
Aquæ, ut, post destillationem, supersit  
quod satis sit ad prohibendum empy-  
reuma. Destillet congius.

*Spearmint Water.*

Take of Spearmint dried, a pound  
and a half, *or*  
Oil of Spearmint, *by weight*  
three drachms;

Pour upon the Herb or on the  
Oil so much Water, that, after dis-  
tillation, a sufficient quantity may re-  
main to prevent empyreuma. Let one  
gallon be distilled.

Spearmint water is used in the same way and for the same  
purposes as peppermint water, though its flavour is to most  
persons less agreeable. It is a good vehicle for saline and  
other aperients, and a useful addition to antispasmodic mix-  
tures, as in the opening mixtures at pages 143 and 198, and  
in the strong camphor mixture prescribed at page 56.

<sup>1</sup> Ubi herba recens adhibetur, pon-  
dere duplo utendum est.

<sup>1</sup> Where the fresh herb is employed,  
twice the above weight is to be used.

*Aqua Pimentæ.*

℞ Pimentæ Baccarum contusarum  
libram dimidiam,  
Aquæ octarium;

Macerate Baccas in Aqua per horas viginti quatuor; tum adjice tantum Aquæ, ut, post destillationem, supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma. Destillet congius.

Pimenta water is a convenient aromatic vehicle for saline aperients, and useful as a solvent of bitter extracts. When recently distilled it has a brownish hue, and after having been for some time kept, it deposits a brown sediment of a resinous nature, probably derived from altered essential oil: in other respects, this water retains its flavour for a long time, and has not the smallest tendency to become vapid and sour.

*Pimenta Water.*

Take of Pimenta Berries bruised, half  
a pound,  
Water, a pint;

Macerate the Berries in Water for twenty-four hours; then add to them a sufficiency of Water to prevent empyreuma, and distil one gallon.

*Aqua Pulegii.*

℞ Pulegii exsiccati<sup>1</sup> libram cum semisse, *vel*  
Olei Pulegii *pondere* drachmas tres;

Herbæ vel Oleo affunde tantum Aquæ, ut, post destillationem, supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma. Destillet congius.

*Pennyroyal Water.*

Take of pennyroyal dried<sup>1</sup>, a pound  
and a half, *or*

Oil of Pennyroyal, *by weight*  
three drachms;

Pour upon the Herb or upon the Oil so much Water, that, after distillation, enough may remain to prevent empyreuma. Distil one gallon.

The distilled water of pennyroyal was once in high estimation on account of its antinervous and antihysterical powers; it is pungent and stimulating, and though not perhaps in itself possessed of much activity, it is a very proper adjunct to or vehicle for the usual emmenagogues and other remedies which the hysterical and nervous complaints of females frequently require. In this way it is a proper substitute for the rose water in the *mistura ferri composita*, and may, upon the same principle, be conjoined with valerian, ammonia, and assafoetida, as in the prescriptions elsewhere given.

<sup>1</sup> Ubi herba recens adhibetur pondere duplo utendum est,

<sup>1</sup> Where the fresh herb is employed, twice the above weight must be used,



*Aqua Rosæ.*

R Rosæ centifoliæ petalorum libras octo ;

His affunde tantum Aquæ, ut, post destillationem, supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma. Destillet congius.

*Rose Water.*

Take of Damask Rose Petals, eight pounds ;

Pour upon them so much Water, that, after distillation, a sufficient quantity may remain to prevent empyreuma. Let one gallon distil over.

This water is commonly distilled, as above directed, from fresh rose-leaves ; the flowers should be gathered when in full perfection, in dry weather, and the petals carefully separated from the stalks and calyces ; the distillation should be performed slowly, and if a very fragrant water is required, the first product should be returned into the still and half its bulk drawn over, which is a better way of proceeding than that of adding to it another portion of the leaves.

Sometimes rose-leaves are preserved for distillation by being salted ; they retain their odour, and the water may then be drawn from them at any convenient period of the season, and equals in fragrancy that from the fresh petals. Rose-water is, however, usually distilled at the time the flowers blow, and is preserved in jars or bottles which should be corked and kept in a cool place ; with every precaution it sometimes will become sour, and is very apt to do so if the bottles or vessels in which it is kept in store, are not originally perfectly clean. Spirit of wine ought not to be added to this water ; it does not materially tend to its preservation, and confers upon it a stimulating power, which, as it is chiefly used in ophthalmic applications, ought to be avoided.

During the distillation of roses there passes over a considerable portion of fatty matter, smelling strongly of the flower, but not so pleasant, and soon becoming rancid. Genuine otto of roses is not, it is said, prepared by distillation, but by putting a quantity of carefully picked rose-leaves into a clean jar or cask, with a quantity of water just sufficient to cover them ; the vessel is then set in the sun for a few days, and in about a week the otto collects in the form of a scum upon the surface, and is removed by a piece of cotton.

## INFUSIONS.

The *infusions* of the present London Pharmacopœia are, without exception, aqueous solutions of the active parts of certain vegetable products, and they are all directed to be made with boiling water. They are generally made in earthenware jugs with covers, but the kind of vessel should have been specified, inasmuch as a clean metallic vessel retains the heat much longer than one of earthen, or of stoneware, and will consequently, in many instances, yield, upon this principle, a stronger infusion.

The substances abounding in readily-soluble extractive matter, and of which the properties or flavour are at the same time injured by boiling, are those best adapted to this mode of preparation; but, generally speaking, remedies of a very active nature ought not thus to be administered, as the strength of infusions is liable to vary.

Soft water, and, in some cases, distilled water, should be used in preparing infusions, and it should be poured boiling hot upon the ingredients, which should be finely bruised or cut into thin slices, as the following formulæ direct; if in powder, which may sometimes, perhaps, be expedient, the infusions will require filtration through paper, but generally they may be strained through tow or through a piece of fine linen; they are always to be used cold.

The greater number of the infusions directed in the Pharmacopœia are liable to speedy decomposition in warm weather; a circumstance which should not be forgotten by the prescriber; they should, at all events, be prepared fresh for use. Infusion of calumba, and the compound infusions of gentian and of senna, are very liable to this objection; but in prescriptions, spirituous and saline substances are often dissolved in them, and contribute considerably to their preservation. They are, with few exceptions, improper vehicles for the metallic salts, some of which they decompose, modifying their activity, and in some instances rendering them nearly inert in their usual doses; but, because in these and some other cases precipitations and decompositions may ensue, we are not therefore always to conclude that the substances are improperly prescribed in conjunction. Such mixtures may be unchemical or incompatible, but they are by no means always inactive.



*Infusum Anthemidis.*

Anthemidis Florum drachmas duas,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium ;

Macera per sextam horæ partem, in  
vase leviter clauso, et cola.

*Infusion of Chamomile.*

Take of Chamomile Flowers, two  
drachms,  
Boiling Water, half a pint ;

Macerate for ten minutes in a lightly  
covered vessel, and strain.

This infusion has the bitterness and much of the aroma of the flowers ; and though rarely occurring in prescriptions, is a domestic remedy in general use, the stomachic virtues of a cup of cold chamomile tea taken in the morning, fasting, being well known to those who suffer from morning nausea and a foul taste in the mouth ; but it is a mere palliative in such cases, unless strenuously seconded by careful attention to diet. Warm chamomile tea is everywhere known as the judicious aide-de-camp of an ipecacuanha vomit, and it deserves the character it has acquired.

*Infusum Armoraciæ Compositum.*

℞ Armoraciæ Radicis recentis concisæ,  
Sinapis Semen contusorum, singulorum unciam,  
Spiritus Armoraciæ compositi fluidunciam,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium,

Macera Radicem in Aqua per horas duas, in vase leviter clauso, et cola ;  
tum adijce Spiritum Armoraciæ compositum.

*Compound Infusion of Horse-Radish.*

Take of fresh Horse-Radish Root, sliced,  
Mustard Seeds bruised, of each an ounce,  
Compound Spirit of Horse-Radish, a fluidounce,  
Boiling Water, a pint ;

Macerate the Root (and Seed) in the Water for two hours, in a covered vessel, and strain ; then add the compound Spirit of Horse-Radish.

This infusion is chiefly intended as a stimulant in paralytic affections, but it is not a commendable formula, either alone or as a vehicle for other analogous irritants. When kept, it soon becomes turbid from the deposition of vegetable albumen, and in warm weather, or in a warm room, speedily runs into putrefactive fermentation. These objections have excluded it from practice, and it should have been omitted among the formulæ of the Pharmacopœia. Horse-radish, as a stimulant, is best used as it frequently comes to table, namely, finely grated ; and mustard, in its usual form (see page 200), is also a good medicine ; but these, and all other vegetables abounding

in the albuminous or vegeto-animal principle, are apt, in their raw state, to disorder weak stomachs, and excite flatulency and fetid eructations. Mustard itself is open to this objection.

### *Infusum Aurantii Compositum.*

℞ Aurantii Corticis exsiccati drachmas duas,  
 Limonum Corticis recentis drachmam,  
 Caryophyllorum contusorum drachmam dimidiam,  
 Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium ;  
 Macera per quartam horæ partem, in vase leviter clauso, et cola.

### *Compound Infusion of Orange-Peel.*

Take of Orange-Peel dried, two drachms,  
 Lemon-Peel fresh, a drachm,  
 Cloves bruised, half a drachm,  
 Boiling Water, half a pint ;  
 Macerate for a quarter of an hour in a lightly covered vessel, and strain.

This is an elegant and agreeable vehicle for small doses of sulphate of magnesia, and for several of the bitter tinctures, and ammonia, being grateful both to the palate and stomach, and tending to restore the tone of the latter where it has been debilitated.

### *Infusum Calumbæ.*

℞ Calumbæ concisæ drachmas duas,  
 Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium ;  
 Macera per horas duas, in vase leviter clauso, et cola.

### *Infusion of Calumba.*

Take of Calumba sliced, two drachms,  
 Boiling Water, half a pint ;  
 Macerate for two hours in a covered vessel, and strain.

We have already spoken of calumba as a valuable bitter—(see *Calumbæ Radix* in the *Materia Medica*) and the infusion made as above is a good form for exhibiting it. It is prescribed with advantage for infants debilitated by diarrhoea, as in the formula given above (see page 54), or in the following :—

℞ Infus. Calumbæ,  
 Aquæ Anethi, ʒʒ fʒvj.  
 Spiritus Ammoniac compos. ℥xx.  
 Fiat mistura de quâ detur cochleare unum minimum tertiâ quâque horâ.

Mr. Thomson recommends infusion of calumba for restraining the nausea and vomiting which attend pregnancy. As it is not discoloured by preparations of iron, it is very properly



prescribed as a vehicle where it is desirable to administer them in conjunction with bitters.

R Infusi Calumbæ f3xj.  
Tincturæ Ferri Muriatis ℥xv.  
Tincturæ Calumbæ f3j.  
Fiat haustus bis die sumendus.

In lithic diathesis, Dr. Paris prescribes the following draught<sup>1</sup> :—

R Magnesiae Subcarb. ʒj.  
Infus. Calumbæ f3j.  
Tinct. Calumbæ f3j.  
Fiat haustus.

Whenever this infusion is prescribed, it should be freshly prepared and kept cool, for in warm weather or warm rooms it becomes ropy and decomposed in the course of twenty-four hours.

### *Infusum Caryophyllorum.*

R Caryophyllorum contusorum ....  
drachmam,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium;  
Macera per horas duas in vase leviter  
clauso, et cola.

### *Infusion of Cloves.*

Take of Cloves bruised, a drachm,  
  
Boiling Water, half a pint;  
Macerate for two hours in a covered  
vessel, and strain.

Three or four table-spoonfuls of this infusion taken twice a day, in that form of dyspepsia which is attended by a sense of coldness, and what is usually described as *gnawing* at the stomach, is often more effectual in its relief than bitters or acids. In these cases its efficacy will generally be improved by a little ammonia, as in the following draught, which may be taken at noon and in the evening, it being presumed that in all these cases proper and careful attention is paid to diet, that abstinence is observed in regard to those varieties of food which are known to disagree, and that recourse is not had to spirituous liquors to quell the sinking coldness that is felt about the region of the stomach, and which, though they afford temporary relief, are infallibly productive of subsequent evil consequences.

R Ammoniae Subcarbonatis gr. vj.  
Infusi Caryophill. f3ij.  
Fiat haustus meridiæ et vesperæ sumendus.

<sup>1</sup> Pharmacologia, vol. i. p. 401.

In such cases, if the bowels are torpid, a drachm or two drachms of sulphate of magnesia should be taken every morning in some warm stomachic vehicle.

### *Infusum Cascarillæ.*

### *Infusion of Cascarilla.*

R Cascarillæ Corticis contusi unciam  
dimidium,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium;  
Macerate per horas duas in vase levi-  
ter clauso, et cola.

Take of Cascarilla Bark bruised, half  
an ounce,  
Boiling Water, half a pint;  
Macerate for two hours in a covered  
vessel, and strain.

This is an excellent light and aromatic bitter, well suited to weak stomachs, and a proper vehicle for acids and alkalies, as occasionally prescribed in dyspeptic cases. Where the bowels have been disordered by diarrhœa, the remaining local debility is relieved by the following mixture:—

R Infusi Cascarillæ f ʒv.  
Tincturæ Cinnamomi,  
Syrupi Aurantiorum, aa f ʒss.  
Misce. Sumat tertiam partem ter die.

### *Infusum Catechu Com- positum.*

### *Compound Infusion of Catechu.*

R Catechu Extracti drachmas duas  
cum semisse,  
Cinnamomi Corticis contusi  
drachmam dimidium,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium;  
Macerate per horam in vase leviter  
clauso, et cola.

Take of Extract of Catechu, two  
drachms and a half,  
Cinnamon Bark bruised,  
half a drachm,  
Boiling Water, half a pint;  
Macerate for an hour in a covered  
vessel, and strain.

This is a good form for the exhibition of catechu, but is not often resorted to, in consequence of the comparative facility by which the same purposes are fulfilled by the use of the tincture (see page 68). It is prescribed in obstinate diarrhœa after the evacuation of the bowels by rhubarb and other proper aperients, and is occasionally conjoined with cretaceous and opiate remedies. It may be taken in the dose of two ounces every four or six hours, or after every purging motion.



*Infusum Cinchonæ.*

℞ Cinchonæ lancifoliæ Corticis contusi unciam dimidiam,  
 Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium;  
 Macera per horas duas in vase leviter clauso, et cola.

*Infusion of Cinchona.*

Take of lance-leaved Cinchona Bark,  
 half an ounce,  
 Boiling Water, half a pint;  
 Macerate for two hours in a covered vessel, and strain.

In the administration of cinchona it is often necessary, on account of the delicate state of the stomach and bowels of invalids, to employ some such mild and diluted state of it as the above; such an infusion further diluted, if necessary, will also often agree with children when the other forms of Peruvian bark are inadmissible. But in all these cases it is now usual to substitute cinchonia and quinia, and especially the sulphate of quinia: this, in small doses, appears to fulfil the various indications required of cinchona; but more extended experience is perhaps requisite before we can speak with certainty upon the subject.

*Infusum Cuspariæ.*

℞ Cuspariæ Corticis contusi drachmas duas,  
 Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium;  
 Macera per horas duas in vase leviter clauso, et cola.

*Infusion of Cusparia.*

Take of Cusparia Bark bruised, two drachms,  
 Boiling Water, half a pint;  
 Macerate for two hours in a covered vessel, and strain.

This simple infusion of angustura bark may be used in any of the cases which have been noticed above (see page 93), as proper for its exhibition, especially in dysenteric and bilious diarrhœa, where proper evacuants have preceded it. Tincture of orange-peel, or of cinnamon, or compound spirit of lavender, are good adjuncts. The dose, like that of most of the other infusions, is, for adults, from one to two ounces three or four times a day. If given to children it generally requires dilution; for this purpose a third or fourth part of dill water, or of caraway water, is in most instances proper.

*Infusum Digitalis.*

℞ Digitalis Foliorum exsiccatorum drachmam,

*Infusion of Fox-glove.*

Take of Fox-glove Leaves, dried, a drachm,

Spiritûs Cinnamomi fluidunciam  
dimidiam,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium dimi-  
dium;

Macera per horas quatuor in vase  
leviter clauso, et cola; tum adjice  
Spiritus.

Spirit of Cinnamon, half a  
fluidounce,  
Boiling Water, half a pint;

Macerate for four hours in a co-  
vered vessel, and strain; then add the  
Spirit.

This is not, upon the whole, a commendable form for the administration of so powerful a remedy; the powder, or the tincture, are to be preferred, as we have elsewhere remarked (see page 96). Of the above infusion, about two drachms twice a day may be considered as a proper dose, gradually increased, with the precautions already adverted to, till it produces the desired effect.

### *Infusum Gentianæ Compositum.*

℞ Gentianæ Radicis concisæ,  
Aurantii Corticis exsiccati, singulo-  
rum drachmam,  
Limonum Corticis recentis drach-  
mas duas,  
Aquæ ferventis fluiduncias duo-  
decim;

Macera per horam; in vase leviter  
clauso, et cola.

Compound infusion of gentian is an agreeable stomachic vehicle for a number of other remedies, especially for acids and alkalies; in warm weather and warm rooms it soon decomposes, so that it should always be used freshly prepared, and not prescribed except for immediate use. In other respects it is a pleasant and efficacious bitter, of which an ounce and a half may be taken twice or thrice a day.

### *Compound Infusion of Gentian.*

Take of Gentian Root sliced,  
Orange Peel dried, of each a  
drachm,  
Lemon Peel fresh, two drachms,  
  
Boiling Water, twelve fluid-  
ounces;

Macerate for an hour in a covered  
vessel, and strain.

### *Infusum Lini Compositum.*

℞ Lini usitatissimi Seminum contuso-  
rum unciam,  
Glycyrrhizæ Radicis concisæ un-  
ciam dimidiam,  
Aquæ ferventis octarios duos;

Macera per horas quatuor, prope  
ignem, vase leviter clauso, et cola.

### *Compound Infusion of Linseed.*

Take of Linseed bruised, an ounce,  
  
Liquorice Root sliced, half an  
ounce,  
Boiling Water, two pints;

Macerate for four hours near the fire,  
in a covered vessel, and strain.



This is a simple demulcent or mucilaginous infusion, useful as a common drink in cases of cough and catarrh; but it is not very agreeable, nor does it deserve a place among the formulæ of a Pharmacopœia.

### *Infusum Quassiae.*

R Quassiae Ligni concisi scrupulum,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium;

Macera per horas duas in vase leviter clauso, et cola.

### *Infusion of Quassia.*

Take of Quassia Wood sliced, a scruple,  
Boiling Water, half a pint;

Macerate for two hours in a covered vessel, and strain.

Infusion of quassia may be considered as an aqueous solution of the bitter principle, nearly pure, containing neither mucilage, tan, nor common extractive, with which it is usually associated in the other tonics: though the product of the above formula is exceedingly bitter, it of course holds a very small relative proportion of the active matter of the wood in solution, two scruples or a drachm of which would perhaps have been, in most cases, a preferable quantity. Under the head "Quassiae Lignum" in the Materia Medica, some of the advantages of this infusion are mentioned; it is chiefly useful as a vehicle for mineral tonics, and especially for sulphate of zinc and the salts of iron. In these cases a stronger infusion of quassia diluted with some aromatic water, or the common infusion with a stomachic tincture, may be prescribed. It has been deemed particularly effectual in the dyspeptic affections of gouty and of hysterical patients.

### *Infusum Rhei.*

R Rhei Radicis concisæ drachmam,

Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium;

Macera per horas duas in vase leviter clauso, et cola.

### *Infusion of Rhubarb.*

Take of Rhubarb Root sliced, a drachm,

Boiling Water, half a pint;

Macerate for two hours in a covered vessel, and strain.

Aqueous infusion is not a bad form for the administration of rhubarb, where it is wished to act very gently upon the bowels; but the powdered root presents so convenient and eligible a form of the remedy that the above is almost superfluous. A compound infusion of rhubarb with gentian and cloves would perhaps have been more useful.

*Infusum Rosæ Compositum.*

℞ Rosæ Gallicæ Petalorum exsiccatorum unciam dimidiam,  
 Acidi sulphurici diluti fluidrachmas tres,  
 Sacchari purificati unciam cum semisse,  
 Aquæ ferventis octarios duos cum semisse;

Aquam Rosæ Petalis superinfunde in vase vitreo; dein Acidum immisce, et macera per horam dimidiam. Denique liquorem cola, eique Saccharum adjice.

*Compound Infusion of Roses.*

Take of Red Rose Petals dried, half an ounce,  
 Diluted Sulphuric Acid, three fluidrachms,  
 Refined Sugar, an ounce and a half,  
 Boiling Water, two pints and a half;

Pour the Water upon the Rose Petals in a glass vessel; then mix in the Acid, and macerate for half an hour. Lastly, strain the liquor, and add to it the Sugar.

This compound infusion is a pleasant acid drink in febrile disorders, and is recommended by its flavour and colour as an elegant vehicle for a variety of remedies, in which capacity it has already been frequently mentioned. It covers very effectually the nauseous saline bitterness of sulphate of magnesia; it is a tolerably unobjectionable solvent for sulphate of quinia, for, although the astringent matter tends to precipitate the quinia, the excess of acid re-dissolves the precipitate: the different bitter tinctures and infusions are not incompatible with it. It is also useful in the composition of gargles, containing the acids, nitre, alum, or tincture of capsicum. The alkalies and alkaline earths, when the acid is saturated by them, change its red colour to green; alum renders it purple.

*Infusum Sennæ Compositum.*

℞ Sennæ Foliorum unciam cum semisse,  
 Zingiberis Radicis concisæ drachmam,  
 Aquæ ferventis octarium;  
 Macera per horam in vase leviter clauso, et liquorem cola.

*Compound Infusion of Senna.*

Take of Senna Leaves, an ounce and a half,  
 Ginger root sliced, a drachm,  
 Boiling Water, a pint;  
 Macerate for an hour in a covered vessel, and strain the liquor.

A drachm of cloves would have been an addition to this infusion preferable to ginger, for when so made it may be longer kept without decomposition, and is moreover more agreeable to the palate. Compound infusion of senna is rarely prescribed alone, for reasons already given (page 197), but it is a good



auxiliary vehicle for sulphate of magnesia, or tartrate of potassa, as in the formulæ prescribed at pages 198 and 141. It should always be freshly prepared, for, after it has been kept a day or two, it deposits a yellowish precipitate, said to be of a very griping nature, and acquires a very nauseous odour. When sulphate of magnesia is dissolved in it, these changes are more slow in taking place, and in cool weather, the common black dose may be kept for some weeks.

### *Infusum Simaroubæ.*

R Simaroubæ Corticis contusi drachmam dimidiam,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium ;

Macera per horas duas in vase leviter clauso, et cola.

### *Infusion of Simarouba.*

Take of Simarouba Bark bruised, half a drachm,  
Boiling Water, half a pint ;

Macerate for two hours in a covered vessel, and strain.

Simarouba appears to possess no advantages over other astringent bitters ; it has been used in diarrhœa, in dysentery, and in the treatment of intermittent fevers ; and the infusion is as good a form as any for its exhibition, but it should be double the strength of that prescribed in the above formula. Dr. Hooper<sup>1</sup> gives the following prescription for the use of simarouba in that part of the treatment of diarrhœa requiring tonics and astringents :—

R Radicis Simaroubæ contusæ ℥ss.  
Corticis Granati contusi ℥ij.  
—— Aurantii excisæ ℥iij.  
Aquæ ferventis oct. j.  
Macera per horam, dein cola.

R Hujus infusi f ℥vij.  
Confectionis Aromaticæ ℥j.  
Tincturæ Cardamomi compos. f ℥ss.  
Tincturæ Opii f ℥ss.  
Fiat mistura cujus sumantur cochlearia tria magna ter quaterve die.

<sup>1</sup> Physician's Vade-Mecum.

*Infusum Tabaci.*

℞ Tabaci Foliorum drachmam,  
 Aquæ ferventis octarium;  
 Macera per horam in vase leviter  
 clauso et cola.

*Infusion of Tobacco.*

Take of Tobacco Leaves, a drachm,  
 Boiling Water, a pint;  
 Macerate for an hour in a covered  
 vessel, and strain.

Under the head “*Tabaci Folia*,” in the *Materia Medica*, the general character of the drug and its principal applications are stated. A drachm of the leaves to a pint of boiling water is the usual strength of the infusion, when it is intended to be used as an enema, and it, is now scarcely ever otherwise employed.

Tobacco glysters are sometimes used for the destruction of intestinal worms, especially of ascarides and trichurides, but the treatment is not commendable, and very dangerous in children’s cases. For this purpose half a drachm of tobacco to twelve ounces of water is sufficient strength. It was once the fashion to employ enemas of infusion and of the smoke of tobacco in cases of suspended animation, a plan invariably dangerous, and founded upon the most erroneous physiological principles.

As a diuretic, the infusion and a tincture of tobacco have sometimes been prescribed, but the remedy is too dangerous, and too uncertain in its effects upon the stomach and upon the system generally, to be resorted to by any cautious practitioner; more especially as it is not calculated to answer any purposes which cannot be attained by less objectionable means.

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## MUCILAGES.

This term is used in the *Pharmacopœia* rather in a mechanical than a chemical sense, and is intended to imply a viscid and inert aqueous solution; otherwise two such dissimilar substances, chemically speaking, as gum arabic and starch, would not have been included under the same denomination.

Mucilage of gum arabic is useful in the manufacture of pills, and is often advantageously employed for the purpose of blending oils and other insoluble substances with water: mucilage of starch is chiefly, if not exclusively, employed as a vehicle for opium and other active remedies in the form of enema.



*Mucilago Acaciæ.*

R Acaciæ Gummi contriti uncias quatuor,  
 Aquæ ferventis octarium dimidium ;  
 Gummi cum Aquâ paulatim instillatâ tere, donec in Mucilaginem abeat.

*Mucilage of Gum Arabic.*

Take of Acacia Gum (Gum Arabic) in powder, four ounces,  
 Boiling Water, half a pint.  
 Add the Water by degrees to the Gum, and rub them together till a mucilage is produced.

Gum arabic may be taken as a sample of gum in its purest form, and as such its leading chemical properties and pharmaceutical uses have been shortly adverted to above (page 4). In addition to its applications already noticed, we sometimes employ it to allay the tracheal irritation and tickling sensation in the throat, which often proves so troublesome a concomitant to catarrh : for this purpose, syrups and small quantities of acid are occasionally mixed with it.

*Mucilago Amyli.*

R Amyli drachmas tres,  
 Aquæ octarium ;  
 Amylum cum Aquâ paulatim instillatâ tere ; dein coque, donec in Mucilaginem abeat.

*Mucilage of Starch.*

Take of Starch, three drachms,  
 Water, a pint ;  
 Add the Water gradually to the Starch, and rub them together ; then boil until they produce a mucilage.

The chemical characters of starch are noticed under the head “ Amylum,” in the *Materia Medica*, and the commonest varieties of it used as articles of food are there enumerated. The above aqueous solution of starch may be used generally as a demulcent ; but its liability to decomposition is against its employment, and its flavour is not of the most agreeable kind, so that arrow-root is its usual substitute.

The leading characters by which starch is chemically distinguished from gum are its insolubility in cold water, and the blue compound which it forms with iodine. Its ultimate elements, carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen, approach nearly, in the relative proportions in which they are combined, to those of gum and sugar, as is apparent from the following results of the experiments of Gay Lussac upon this subject :—

| Ultimate elements of | Starch, | Gum,  | Sugar, |
|----------------------|---------|-------|--------|
| Carbon .....         | 43.55   | 42.23 | 42.47  |
| Oxygen .....         | 49.68   | 50.84 | 50.63  |
| Hydrogen .....       | 6.77    | 6.93  | 6.90   |
|                      | 100     | 100   | 100    |

It is not, therefore, surprising, that in many natural processes, and in certain artificial operations, these three proximate principles are mutually convertible into each other.

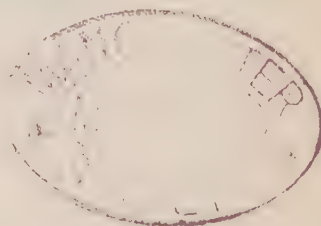
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### DECOCTIONS.

In consequence of the difficult solubility of some of the active principles of vegetables, it is occasionally necessary to substitute decoction for infusion, in order to separate them from their inert accompaniments; but there are several objections to this process: the continued application of heat produces a chemical change in some of the substances usually present: volatile matters, upon which much of the activity of these remedies often depends, are dissipated; and substances dissolved by the decoction whilst hot are frequently precipitated as it cools. Where the object is to separate difficultly soluble mucilaginous substances, and principles which are neither volatile nor changeable at the temperature of boiling water, the process is often effectual and unobjectionable.

In the preparation of decoctions a principal object should be to continue the boiling no longer than is necessary for the extraction of the soluble parts of the vegetables, and they should be strained while hot, lest their active principle should be deposited, and lost in that operation. Common saucepans, which should be rather deep than shallow, are generally used in preparing these decoctions: the directions occasionally given in regard to particular forms of these vessels appear to be quite superfluous; and it is scarcely necessary to add, that the vegetables should be cut into slices, or bruised into a coarse powder, in order to facilitate the action of the solvent upon them, without at the same time being so finely divided as to pass through the sieve or strainer.

In the greater number of decoctions there is held in solution a portion of extractive matter, and frequently of astringent matter, or tan; acids and other peculiar vegetable principles are also often present, and in many of them a large relative proportion of mucilage; hence it is that the greater number of metallic salts are said to be incompatible with them, that is, to occasion change of colour and precipitation when their solutions are added to, or when they are dissolved in them; but it by no means always follows, that because the metallic oxide enters into new combinations, it is therefore rendered inert; nor are we always to conclude that substances are medically incompatible because they are chemically so.





Of the following decoctions, those of quince seeds, woody nightshade, Iceland moss, mallow, poppies, elm, and white hellebore, are insignificant in point of real utility; the decoctions of barley are usually prepared in the kitchen, and those of oak and senega might have been left to extemporaneous prescription.

*Decoctum Aloës Compositum.*

℞ Extracti Glycyrrhizæ semunciam,  
Potassæ Subcarbonatis scrupulos duos,  
Aloës spicatæ Extracti contriti,  
Myrrhæ contritæ,  
Crocī Stigmatum, singulorum drachmam,  
Tincturæ Cardamomi compositæ fluiduncias quatuor,  
Aquæ octarium;  
Glycyrrhizam, Potassæ Subcarbonatem, Aloën, Myrrham, et Crocī Stigmata, decoque cum Aquâ ad fluiduncias duodecim, et cola; tum adjice Tincturam Cardamomi compositam.

*Compound Decoction of Aloes.*

Take of Extract of Liquorice, half an ounce,  
Subcarbonate of Potassa, two scruples,  
Extract of Spiked Aloe in powder,  
Myrrh in powder,  
Saffron, of each a drachm,  
Compound Tincture of Cardamoms, four fluidounces,  
Water, a pint;  
Boil down the Liquorice, the Subcarbonate of Potassa, the Aloes, Myrrh, and Saffron, with the Water, to twelve fluidounces, and strain; then add the compound Tincture of Cardamoms.

This decoction corresponds with the celebrated *Baume de Vie*, and is a very good form for the exhibition of aloes, which is retained in solution by the alkaline carbonate, whilst its nauseous bitterness is considerably concealed by the flavour of the liquorice, the extract of which should be that prepared according to the Pharmacopœia, and not the common Spanish liquorice, as it is called, which is usually substituted for it. The myrrh is generally a proper adjunct to aloes, but the saffron is an ineffective ingredient, except in as far as flavour is concerned; the tincture of cardamoms assists in preventing spontaneous decomposition of the decoction, and makes it agreeable to the stomach.

This is a mild and commendable remedy where a warm and stomachic aperient is required, which is often the case in hysterical and hypochondriacal affections, and in certain spasmodic disorders, where the bowels have become torpid from the use of opiates. Its purgative quality may be increased by the addition of tincture or infusion of senna; and the mix-

ture is far from being so disgusting to the palate as the nature of its components would lead us to expect. The dose is from half an ounce to an ounce and a half. It is often of singular service in dyspepsia, where it corrects acidity, and promotes the action of the stomach and bowels: in such cases, half an ounce or six drachms may be taken every other morning early, mixed with an equal quantity of some aromatic water or bitter and stomachic infusion.

### *Decoctum Cinchonæ.*

R Cinchonæ lancifoliæ Corticis contusi  
unciam,  
Aquæ octarium ;

Coque per sextam horæ partem in  
vase leviter clauso, et liquorem adhuc  
calentem cola.

### *Decoction of Cinchona.*

Take of lance-leaved Cinchona Bark  
bruised, an ounce,  
Water, a pint ;

Boil for ten minutes in a covered  
vessel, and strain the liquor while hot.

This is the most common liquid form in which cinchona is administered ; and though the whole active matter of the above quantity of bark is by no means abstracted by the brief decoction directed in the formula, it is found to contain a considerable portion of cichonia and of astringent and extractive matter : the latter has a tendency, during the boiling, to become less and less soluble ; in consequence we observe films separate upon the surface of the decoction, and as it cools, it becomes paler-coloured and turbid, owing to the deposition of altered extractive and resinous matter. From the bark remaining after the above decoction, a portion of cinchonia may be separated by the usual process of boiling it with very dilute sulphuric acid.

Hot decoction of bark is brown, and nearly transparent, but it becomes pale and turbid when cold, and gradually lets fall the deposit just noticed.

This decoction may be given alone in doses of an ounce and a half or two ounces thrice or four times a day, or it may be more properly used as a vehicle for other preparations of cinchona, or conjoined with other tonics.

The medical uses of bark, as far as they require enumeration in a work on Pharmacy, have been described under the head "Cinchona," in the *Materia Medica*, so that it only remains here to add a few of the usual formulæ in which the decoction is chiefly concerned.

In that part of the treatment of nervous fever requiring the exhibition of the antiseptic tonics, bark, combined, where the



bowels will bear it, with acids, is most properly resorted to; and the decoction of the above formula, or one somewhat stronger, is generally used.

R Decocti Cinchonæ f3xj. !  
Tincturæ Cinchonæ f3j.  
Acidi Sulphurici diluti ℥x.

Fiat haustus.

From three to five minims of muriatic acid, or from six to ten minims of dilute nitric acid, may occasionally be substituted for the sulphuric acid in this prescription, and a drachm of syrup of orange-peel or of ginger may also be added.

In the cure of intermittents, cinchona requires to be given in such large quantities, that the decoction is an inadequate preparation, except as a vehicle for the extract or powder, as in the following draughts:—

R Decocti Cinchonæ f3x.  
Tincturæ Cinchonæ compos. f3ij.  
Pulveris Cinchonæ ℥j.  
Syrup. Aurant. f3j.

M. fiat haustus secundâ vel tertiâ quâque horâ sumendus, absente febre.

R Extracti Cinchonæ gr. x.  
Decocti Cinchonæ f3xv.  
Tinct. Aurantii f3j.

Fiat haustus ut suprâ sumendus.

In the treatment of putrid sore throat, and other malignant diseases, it is often necessary to resort to cinchona in conjunction with aromatics:—

R Confectionis Aromaticæ 3ss.  
Decocti Cinchonæ f3xij.  
Spiritus Etheris compos. f3ss.

Fiat haustus tertiâ vel quartâ quâque horâ sumendus.

R Pulveris Cinnamomi compos. gr. x.  
Tincturæ Cinchonæ compos. f3ij.  
Decoct. Cinchonæ f3xij.

Fiat haustus.

### *Decoctum Cydoniæ.*

R Cydoniæ Seminum drachmas duas,  
Aquæ octarium;

Coque lento igne per sextam horæ  
partem; dein cola.

### *Decoction of Quince Seeds.*

Take of Quince Seeds, two drachms,  
Water, a pint;

Boil over a slow fire for ten minutes;  
then strain.

This decoction should rather have been placed among the "Mucilages." Quince seeds abound in a readily soluble mucilaginous substance, which is extracted by the above process, and forms a viscid solution. There are very few, if any, cases in which this decoction is really useful, and its extreme proneness to decomposition is an objection to its employment. As a soothing application to the excoriated surface produced by tears trickling from the corner of the eye in cases of obstructed lachrymal duct, it sometimes answers better than any analogous remedy.

### *Decoctum Dulcamaræ.*

### *Decoction of Woody Nightshade.*

℞ Dulcamaræ Caulis concisi unciam,  
Aquæ octarium cum semisse;  
Decoque ad octarium, et cola.

Take of the Stalks of Woody Nightshade sliced, an ounce,  
Water, a pint and a half;  
Boil down to a pint, and strain.

Under the article "Dulcamaræ Caulis," in the *Materia Medica*, we have given our opinion of the value of that remedy, and consequently also of its decoction, which might safely have been confided to the extemporaneous prescription of those who trust in its medical efficacy.

### *Decoctum Hordei.*

### *Decoction of Barley.*

℞ Hordei Seminum uncias duas,  
Aquæ octarios quatuor cum semisse;

Take of Pearl Barley, two ounces,  
Water four pints and a half;

Res alias Hordei Seminibus adhærentes Aquâ frigidâ primùm ablue; deindê, affuso Aquæ octario dimidio, Semina paulisper coque. Hâc Aquâ abjectâ, superinfunde quod reliquum est priûs fervefactum; tum decoque ad octarios duos, et cola.

First wash away with cold Water all foreign matter adhering to the Barley; then pour upon it half a pint of the Water, and boil a little while. Having thrown away this Water, pour the rest, previously made boiling hot, upon the Barley; then boil down to two pints, and strain.

The composition of this decoction has been stated above (p. 117). Under the humbler name of *barley-water* it is in constant request in the room of the sick, and at the table of the invalid. Mixed with one-third or an equal part of fresh milk, it is often successfully used as food for infants; but in



such application of it the greatest attention should be paid to its cleanliness and freshness: it soon becomes slightly acescent, and in that state has brought on a pernicious diarrhoea. It is a good vehicle for various demulcent remedies; and either the above simple decoction, or the following complex one, are among the best media for the exhibition of solution of potassa, in cases of the uric diathesis.

### *Decoctum Hordei Compositum.*      *Compound Decoction of Barley.*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Decocti Hordei octarios duos,                           | Take of Decoction of Barley, two                  |
| Caricæ Fructûs concisi uncias duas,                     | pints,  |
| Glycyrrhizæ Radicis concisæ et contusæ unciam dimidiam, | Figs sliced, two ounces,                          |
| Uvarum passarum, demptis acinis, uncias duas,           | Liquorice Root sliced and bruised, half an ounce, |
| Aquæ octarium;  | Raisins, stoned, two ounces,                      |
| Decoque ad octarios duos, et cola.                      | Water, a pint;                                    |
|   | Boil down to two pints, and strain.               |

This is a good demulcent drink in all cases where the former is requisite, for which it may be occasionally substituted: it is also a proper vehicle for acids, nitre, and similar applications in the form of gargle.

Both the above decoctions of barley are rather subjects of culinary than of pharmaceutical art, and as such they have been properly introduced into the "Cook's Oracle" by the agreeable Author of that work, with the following annotation:—

"These drinks are intended to assuage thirst in ardent fevers and inflammatory disorders, for which plenty of mild diluting liquor is one of the principal remedies; and if not suggested by the medical attendant, is frequently demanded by honest instinct, in terms too plain to be misunderstood. The stomach sympathises with every fibre of the human frame, and no part of it can be distressed without in some degree offending the stomach: therefore it is of the utmost importance to soothe this grand organ, by rendering every thing we offer to it as elegant and agreeable as the nature of the case will admit of. The barley drink, prepared according to the second receipt, will be received with pleasure by the most delicate palate."

These observations deserve the notice of medical men, who

are not always so attentive to the elegance of their formulæ as they might be, in perfect consistence with their efficacy: but I have quoted Dr. KITCHINER chiefly with the view of applauding his attention to the diet of the invalid, and his very laudable attempt at introducing weight and measure into the “Analeptic Part of the Art of Physic,” commonly called *Cookery*.

*Decoctum Lichenis.**Decoction of Iceland Moss.*

R Lichenis unciam,  
Aquæ octarium cum semisse;  
Decoque ad octarium, et cola.

Take of Iceland Moss, an ounce,  
Water, a pint and a half;  
Boil down to a pint, and strain.

In this mode of preparing the decoction of Iceland moss, its bitter principle is retained, and a disagreeable mucilaginous solution is the result. There appears to be nothing in the bitter principle of this moss to recommend it in preference to other bitters; and the mucilaginous or amylaceous part is not more nutritive than the other modifications of gum or starch. As a remedy in debility, pthisis, and in disorders requiring nutritive tonics, abundant substitutes may be found for this lichen: it may, therefore, be rejected from our *Materia Medica* without the smallest inconvenience, though, as a domestic remedy, in Iceland, it may possibly be entitled to some consideration. (See page 137.)

*Decoctum Malvæ Compositum.**Compound Decoction of Mallow.*

R Malvæ exsiccatae unciam,  
Anthemidis Florum exsiccatorum  
unciam dimidiam,  
Aquæ octarium;  
Coque per quartam horæ partem, et  
cola.

Take of Mallow dried, an ounce,  
Chamomile Flowers dried, half  
an ounce,  
Water, a pint;  
Boil for a quarter of an hour, and  
strain.

The utility of this decoction is not apparent: the mallow is inert. Of the virtues of chamomile we have spoken above. If intended for fomentations, it has no advantage over warm water; if as a vehicle for active substances in the form of



enema, the same observation applies; or, at all events, the chamomile is its only useful ingredient.

### *Decoctum Papaveris.*

R Papaveris Capsularum concisarum  
uncias quatuor,  
Aquæ octarios quatuor;  
Coque per quartam horæ partem, et  
cola.

### *Decoction of Poppy.*

Take of Poppy Capsules cut, four  
ounces,  
Water, four pints;  
Boil for a quarter of an hour, and  
strain.

Decoction of poppy heads is intended as an anodyne fomentation, but there are very few cases in which it is preferable to warm water, with a little tincture of opium added to it. The seeds of the poppy should be rejected, as they render the decoction unnecessarily greasy.

### *Decoctum Quercus.*

R Quercûs Corticis unciam,  
Aquæ octarios duos;  
Decoque ad octarium, et cola.

### *Decoction of Oak.*

Take of Oak Bark, an ounce,  
Water, two pints;  
Boil down to a pint, and strain.

This decoction is used internally and externally: it is tonic and astringent, but is by no means to be considered a fit substitute for cinchona, in the treatment of febrile diseases. As an astringent in diarrhœa, after the bowels have been duly cleared by proper aperients, it may be prescribed as follows:—

R Confectionis Opii ʒj.  
Decocti Quercûs fʒvss.  
Tinct. Camphoræ compos. fʒss  
M. fiat mistura de quâ sumantur cochlearia tria magna post  
singulas liquidas sedes, vel ter in die.

As an astringent gargle, decoction of oak bark is sometimes used alone, or as a vehicle for proper adjuncts; and it is occasionally prescribed as a lotion in protrusions of the rectum and piles, and as an injection in gleet discharges. In the latter case it is convenient, in most instances, to render it a little viscid, by the addition of mucilage of gum arabic.

*Decoctum Sarsaparillæ.**Decoction of Sarsaparilla.*

R Sarsaparillæ Radicis concisæ uncias  
quatuor,

Aquæ ferventis octarios quatuor;

Macera per horas quatuor, in vase  
leviter clauso, prope ignem; dein Sar-  
saparillæ Radicem exime et contunde.  
Contusam liquori redde, et iterum si-  
mili modo macera per horas duas;  
dein decoque ad octarios duos, et  
cola.

Take of Sarsaparilla Root sliced, four  
ounces,

Boiling Water, four pints;

Macerate for four hours, in a co-  
vered vessel, near the fire; then take  
out the Sarsaparilla and bruise it.  
When bruised, return it to the liquor,  
and again macerate in the same man-  
ner for two hours; then boil down to  
two pints, and strain.

These elaborate directions are seldom complied with by the apothecary, and it admits of doubt whether they are necessary. If the root be thoroughly bruised and beaten in the first instance, properly simmered down, and the decoction *duly squeezed out of it* after the evaporation, the soluble materials will be as perfectly obtained as by the above process, and in less than half the time.

We have already adverted to the difference of opinion among medical men respecting the virtues of sarsaparilla, and pharmaceutical writers are equally divided as to the most efficacious species, and as to the best mode of extracting its virtues. Dr. Paris<sup>1</sup> says, that it is rarely boiled long enough for this purpose; and Mr. Thomson<sup>2</sup> thinks, that long boiling injures it, and that it yields up all its medicinal qualities by mere maceration in warm water. According to some pharmaceutical authors, the virtue of sarsaparilla does not reside exclusively in the cortical part, but is also to be sought for in the amylaceous covering of the central woody fibre, and they give the preference to the amylaceous over the fibrous or bearded variety of the root. It is impossible to speak with any certainty upon this subject, so long as we remain in entire ignorance of the nature of the *active principle* of this important drug; my own opinion is (but I cannot at present substantiate it experimentally) that it will be found to reside in the acrid matter which the root contains, and, consequently, that that is the best sarsaparilla which, when chewed for some time, yields most pungent flavour: sometimes the amylaceous sarsaparilla is more biting upon the palate than the woody, or fibrous; but the latter, when good, fresh, and of a bright-brown colour, is, I think, generally to be preferred, and the best mode of making the decoction is, to bruise it thoroughly, then to infuse it by pour-

<sup>1</sup> Pharmacologia, vol. ii. p. 178.

<sup>2</sup> Lond. Disp. 1822, p. 755.



ing upon it the boiling water, and suffering it to stand for a few hours, then to boil down to the requisite strength, and to strain and thoroughly press out the decoction from the residuary root; the addition of a few grains of carbonate of soda or of potassa, or making the infusion in lime water, seems greatly to facilitate the extraction of the soluble matter, and may, in most cases, therefore, be used with advantage.

Sarsaparilla almost always requires to be given in considerable doses; the above decoction is therefore often used as a vehicle for the extract, and sometimes for the powder; but it should not be too indiscriminately administered in very large quantities, which often permanently offend the stomach, especially in cases of dyspeptic debility. In these cases the addition of a little tincture of ginger, or tincture of orange-peel, especially with five or six grains of carbonate of soda, will often agree better than the simple decoction; some stomachs prefer the flavour and warmth conferred by a few cloves.

### *Decoctum Sarsaparillæ Compositum.*

℞ Decocti Sarsaparillæ ferventis octarios quatuor,  
Sassafras Radicis concisæ,  
Guaiaci Ligni rasi,  
Glycyrrhizæ Radicis contusæ, singulorum unciam,  
Mezerei Radicis Corticis drachmas tres;  
Decoque per quartam horæ partem, et cola.

### *Compound Decoction of Sarsaparilla.*

Take of Decoction of Sarsaparilla, boiling hot, four pints,  
Sassafras Root, sliced,  
Guaiacum Wood, in shavings,  
Liquorice root bruised, of each an ounce,  
Mezereon Root Bark, three drachms;  
Boil for a quarter of an hour, and strain.

Mezereon is the only active addition to the above decoction; but it is added in such small quantity, and is of such doubtful efficacy, that it can scarcely be considered as an important adjunct: the guaiacum wood is useless, but the sassafras and liquorice confer aromatic warmth and sweetness, which may possibly suit some stomachs and palates.

The usual dose of these decoctions is from four ounces to a pint or more daily. They have been prescribed in chronic rheumatism, in obstinate cutaneous eruptions, in indolent ulcers, in glandular affections, in diseases of the periosteum and bone attended by obscure pains, wasting of the flesh, tenderness of the part, tumours and nodes unconnected with

syphilis, and in that state of the habit known among medical men under the term *cachexia*, but which it is not easy to define: in such cases sarsaparilla often proves a most valuable remedy, and it sometimes effects a cure where all other remedies have long been administered in vain, and where the diseased state of the system has been of many years duration; but to ensure success the utmost attention must be paid to the quality of the sarsaparilla, great care in its preparation, and it must be taken in large doses, and for a long time; hence the advantage of concentrated decoctions, of solutions of extract in decoction, of the concentrated syrup, and other analogous forms, for a quantity equal to from a pint to a quart of the decoction of the above strength must often be taken daily, and continued for eight, ten, or twelve weeks, though in many cases a shorter course will suffice; inattention to the quality of the drug, and want of perseverance in its use are, I think, the sources of those opinions of its inefficacy which we often hear quoted. In the after treatment of syphilis, and in cases where mercury has unkindly affected the system, and in pseudo-syphilis, sarsaparilla possesses restorative powers, not hitherto observed in any other article of the *Materia Medica*. See *Sarsaparillæ Radix*, (page 189,) and *Extract* and *Syrup of Sarsaparilla*, among the following preparations.

### *Decoctum Senegæ.*

℞ Senegæ Radicis unciam,  
 Aquæ octarios duos;  
 Decoque ad octarium, et cola.

### *Decoction of Senega.*

Take of Senega Root, an ounce,  
 Water, two pints;  
 Boil down to a pint, and strain.

We have little to add, upon the subject of this preparation, to the remarks which will be found under the head "*Senegæ Radix*," considered as an article of the *Materia Medica*. The above decoction is possessed of some acrimony, and has been given in doses of from one to three ounces, twice or three times a day. We have heard it much extolled, in conjunction with guaiacum and ammonia, in chronic rheumatism; but what stimulant has not been tried in that very obstinate complaint? The following, however, was the effective formula:—

℞ Tincturæ Guaiaci f ʒj.  
 Mellis ʒj. tere simul, et adde  
 Decoct. Senegæ f ʒjss.  
 Ammoniæ Subcarbonatis gr. vj.  
 Fiat haustus sextâ quâque horâ sumendus.



*Decoctum Ulmi.*

R Ulmi Corticis recentis contusi uncias quatuor,  
 Aquæ octarios, quatuor;  
 Decoque ad octarios duos, et cola.

*Decoction of Elm Bark.*

Take of fresh Elm Bark bruised, four ounces,  
 Water, four pints;  
 Boil down to two pints, and strain.

A very useless, harmless remedy.—See *Ulmi Cortex*, page 227.

*Decoctum Veratri.*

R Veratri Radicis contritæ unciam,  
 Aquæ octarios duos,  
 Spiritûs rectificati fluiduncias duas;  
 Decoque Veratri Radicem ex Aquâ ad octarium, et cola; tum postquam refrixerit, adjice Spiritum.

*Decoction of White Hellebore.*

Take of White Hellebore Root in powder, an ounce,  
 Water, two pints,  
 Rectified Spirit two fluid-ounces;  
 Boil the Hellebore Root in the Water down to a pint, and strain; then, when the decoction has cooled, add the Spirit.

It has been already remarked in regard to white hellebore, that it is too uncertain and mischievous to be given internally; and that although benefit has been derived from its external application, it should even then be employed with the utmost circumspection, and in a very diluted state.

## EXTRACTS.

In Extractis omnibus præparandis, humorem, balneo aquoso, in patinâ quamprimùm consume, donec fiat crassitudo ad pilulas fingendas idonea, et sub finem spathâ assiduè move.

Extractis omnibus mollioribus paululum Spiritûs rectificati insperge.

In preparing all Extracts, quickly evaporate in a pan, on a water-bath, till they have acquired the proper consistency for making into pills, and, toward the end, stir constantly with a spatula.

Upon all the softer Extracts sprinkle a little rectified Spirit.

Chemists have endeavoured, but not very successfully, to define the term *extract* or *extractive matter*. It is said to be a brown bitterish substance, which, by repeated solutions in water and evaporations, becomes gradually less and less so-

luble in that liquid, in consequence of absorbing oxygen : it is imperfectly deliquescent, soluble in weak alcohol and in liquid alkalies, but insoluble in pure alcohol, in ether, and in the acids ; it is precipitated from its solutions by chlorine, by sulphate and muriate of alumina, and by muriate of tin ; but not by a solution of tan. We, however, find some difficulty in referring to any individual substance in which these characters are well marked ; and in general the supposed extractive principle is so intimately blended with other proximate components of plants, and is apparently so easily modified in its nature by the agents employed in its separation, that it can scarcely be recognised as a distinct definable substance.

There is, however, no ambiguity respecting the term *extract* as it is used in pharmacy ; it there implies preparations obtained by evaporating certain vegetable juices, infusions, or decoctions, and may contain, independent of extractive matter, gum, starch, sugar, albumen or gluten, tan, resin, and other substances, among which we may especially enumerate certain compound salifiable bases, the nature of which depends upon the vegetable matter used, such as cinchonia, morphia, strychnia, atropia, veratria, &c. In many cases alcohol is employed in the extraction of the soluble vegetable substances, and the extracts are then termed *alcoholic* or *resinous*.

In the preparation of aqueous extracts, a decoction is made in the usual way, and is evaporated according to the above official directions, quickly on a water-bath : but rapid evaporation is not easily thus effected ; and as it is very desirable speedily to get rid of the moisture, and at a temperature not injurious to the vegetable substances present, other expedients are usually adopted in the pharmaceutical laboratory. Sometimes the evaporation is conducted directly over the fire, by which the extract is invariably injured, and often burnt : sometimes the process is performed in vessels heated by steam, which is by far the least exceptionable method of preparing extracts upon a large scale : in some few instances evaporation at very low temperatures, in vessels exhausted of atmospheric air, and consequently under greatly diminished pressure, is resorted to ; but the apparatus required for this purpose is too complicated for general use, and the benefit derived from it, in respect to the activity and efficacy of the products, by no means such as to warrant its general adoption. Mr. Barry's contrivance for the purpose is one of the best that have been invented <sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, vol. i. p. 231.



When alcohol is employed in the preparation of extracts, the evaporation is usually conducted in a still, which should be heated by steam, and the spirit thus drawn off; the process may be finished in the usual way.

Iron, copper, tinned copper, or pewter vessels, are generally used in these evaporations, and in some few cases, basins of earthenware must be employed; and it would have been well if the Pharmacopœia had directed the greater number of the extracts to be evaporated to dryness, or at least to such extent as to become brittle and pulverisable when cold; for when originally of the consistency "fit for making pills" they become, on keeping, too hard for that purpose and not hard enough to reduce to powder, in which case they are frequently heated, or softened in a hot mortar, before they can be used; and if to be mixed, as is often required, with powders of other substances, it is almost impossible to effect their incorporation by fair means<sup>1</sup>. It may also be remarked, that when of such consistency as easily to admit of being formed into pills, these invariably flatten, and often adhere and agglutinate in a warm room, or in summer weather.

The sprinkling of extracts with spirits is a useless precaution, for it soon evaporates; when properly dried, they do not become mouldy, if kept in a dry place, but the greater number of them invariably do so if, as is often the case, they are put warm into pots, and tied over, before they have entirely cooled.

The extracts retained in the present Pharmacopœia are few in number compared with those formerly used, and to be found in foreign dispensatories and in the Parisian Codex; but they are quite sufficient for all practical purposes; and even now, a few might be rejected without inconvenience. They are, in many instances, no less convenient than active formulæ, and where it is desirable to prolong the action of a medicine upon the stomach, they may be given in the form of pill; or, they may be dissolved in common or in aromatic distilled waters, and in that way used as substitutes for decoctions, and in some instances for the fresh juices of plants.

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<sup>1</sup> In such cases of difficulty, a hot pestle is an expedient sometimes resorted to.

*Extractum Aconiti.*

R Aconiti Foliorum recentium libram ;

Contunde in mortario lapideo, in-  
sperso exiguo Aquæ; dein exprime  
succum, eumque non defæcatum con-  
sume, donec idoneam crassitudinem  
habeat.

*Extract of Aconite.*

Take of Aconite Leaves fresh, a  
pound;

Bruise them in a stone mortar,  
sprinkling upon them little Water;  
then press out the juice, and evaporate  
it until it acquires a proper consistence.

The activity of aconite, and its virtues, are so uncertain, that it is by no means a commendable remedy in any case: it has gained a little celebrity, but upon very doubtful grounds, in the cure of chronic rheumatism, a disease which, after very obstinate and prolonged attacks, not unfrequently disappears spontaneously; hence, an infinity of medicines have had the credit of curing it; among these aconite appears to have trifling claims, and as it sometimes is productive of alarming symptoms, it is better let alone. The extract or inspissated juice, as it is sometimes called, is the only form in which it can conveniently be administered, and this is best given as a pill, either alone or with suitable adjuncts. The incipient dose should not exceed half a grain; sometimes ten grains have had no effect, probably because the extract was good for nothing: the symptoms it produces are nausea, sickness, pain in the region of the stomach, headach, and vertigo. It is very acrid upon the palate, and temporarily paralyses the nerves of taste when a solution of the extract is applied to the tongue. 1 cwt. of fresh aconite yields about 5 lbs. of extract.

*Extractum Aloës Purifi-  
catum.*

R Aloës spicatæ Extracti contriti  
libram,  
Aquæ ferventis congiūm ;

Macerate per triduum leni calore;  
dein cola, et sepone, ut fæces subsidant.  
Liquorem defæcatum effunde, et con-  
sume, donec idoneam crassitudinem  
habeat.

*Purified Extract of Aloes.*

Take of Extract of spiked Aloe in  
powder, a pound,  
Boiling Water, a gallon;

Macerate for three days with a gentle  
heat; then strain, and suffer the dregs  
to subside. Pour off the clear liquor,  
and evaporate until it has a proper  
consistency.

The object of this preparation of aloes appears to be to get



rid of the resinous portion, which, with a quantity of modified extractive matter, is designated in the above formula “*fæces*” or dregs, and is supposed to contribute to the heating and griping quality of the crude drug; this, however, seems to be an unfounded hypothesis, and the process merely confers a degree of uncertainty upon the action of the medicine, and deprives it of those very peculiarities for which it is generally resorted to. Where, therefore, the large intestines require stimulation, where there is apathy in the uterine system, and that want of energy which we have elsewhere represented aloes as well calculated to restore, we recommend the use of the drug in its usual state. Ten or fifteen grains of the above extract, taken in the form of two or three pills, effectually empties the bowels.

### *Extractum Anthemidis.*

R Anthemidis Florum exsiccatorem  
libram,  
Aquæ congium;

Decoque ad octarios quatuor; et  
liquorem adhuc calentem cola; de-  
nique eum consume, donec idoneam  
crassitudinem habeat.

### *Extract of Chamomile.*

Take of Chamomile Flowers dried, a  
pound,  
Water, a gallon;

Boil down to four pints, and strain  
the liquor while yet hot; then evapo-  
rate it till it has a proper consistence.

Extract of chamomile, in doses of from five to ten grains, twice or thrice a day, is an agreeable bitter to the stomach; but it is simply bitter, all the aroma of the flower having been dissipated by the process of preparing the extract: the lost virtues are in some measure restored in the following formula, which is a good stimulating bitter, or stomachic pill:—two or three for a dose.

R Pulveris Florum Anthemidis ℥ss.

Extracti Anthemidis ℥j.

Olei Anthemidis ℥xv.

Fiat massa in pilulas viginti quatuor dividenda.

As a vehicle for other tonics, extract of chamomile is one of the best of the simple bitter extracts, and supplies the place of a number of analogous preparations now very properly excluded from the Pharmacopœia; such, for instance, as the extracts of wormwood, lesser centaury, cascarrilla, rue, &c.; 1 cwt. of chamomile flowers afford upon an average 48lbs of extract.

*Extractum Belladonnæ.**Extract of Deadly Nightshade.*

R. Belladonnæ Foliorum recentium  
libram ;

Contunde in mortario lapideo, in-  
sperso exiguo Aquæ; dein exprime  
succum, eumque non defæcatum con-  
sume, donec idoneam crassitudinem  
habeat.

Take of Deadly Nightshade Leaves  
fresh, a pound ;

Bruise them in a stone mortar,  
having sprinkled a little water over  
them; then press out the juice, and,  
without separating the dregs, eva-  
porate until it acquires a proper con-  
sistence.

Under the title “Belladonnæ Folia” in the *Materia Medica*, the leading properties of this virulently poisonous extract are detailed; as an internal remedy the extract is a dangerous one. Hahnemann’s absurd recommendation of it as a preservative against the scarlet fever cannot be too strongly condemned; no practitioner of common prudence would in any case risk its exhibition in infantile diseases; and especially not upon purely hypothetical grounds.

In continued and intermitting muscular pains, in chronic rheumatic affections, and in cases of extreme cuticular tenderness without inflammation, a belladonna plaster may, as we have said above, be resorted to, and sometimes with success: in these cases the treatment is always matter of experiment, rather than of certainty, but belladonna deserves trial, as having immediately succeeded where the usual routine of other remedies had failed.

Belladonna plaster is usually made of equal parts of the extract and of lead plaster; it mixes, however, more readily with soap plaster, and this compound is more easily spread upon leather.

1 cwt. of fresh belladonna yields from 4 to 6lbs of extract.

*Extractum Cinchonæ.**Extract of Cinchona.*

R. Cinchonæ lancifoliæ Corticis con-  
tusi libram,  
Aquæ congium ;

Decoque ad octarios sex, et liquorem  
adhuc calentem cola. Eodem modo,  
ex pari Aquæ mensurâ quater decoque,  
et cola. Denique liquores omnes in  
unum mistos consume, donec idoneam  
crassitudinem habeant.

Take of lance-leaved Cinchona Bark  
bruised, a pound,  
Water, a gallon ;

Boil down to six pints, and strain  
the liquor while yet hot. In the same  
manner boil four times successively, in  
a similar measure of Water, and strain.  
Lastly, mix all the liquors together,  
and evaporate until it acquires a proper  
consistence.



Hoc Extractum servari debet *molle*, quod ad pilulas fingendas aptum sit, et *durum*, quod in pulverem teri possit.

This Extract should be kept *soft*, fit to form pills, and *hard*, that it may be reduced to powder.

In this preparation the extractive matter of the bark is probably somewhat modified by the long exposure of its solution to heat and air, but if we suppose that its activity depends upon the presence of a salt of cinchonia, and I have obtained cinchonia from this extract of bark, the changes that affect its other ingredients will be comparatively of little importance. It is not, however, a very commendable form of the medicine, for independent of the alteration which the cinchonia itself may suffer in the usual way of preparing it, the strong decoction, especially that made with the addition of a little acid, is to be preferred. The convenience of administering it in the form of pill is its chief recommendation, and it is not altogether to be rejected in solution, especially dissolved in syrup for the use of children. Those practitioners, however, who confide in sulphate of quinia, usually prescribe it in all cases where the activity of bark is required in its most condensed form,

Extract of bark should always be evaporated to that brittle state in which it may be powdered.

### *Extractum Cinchonæ Resinosum.*

R Cinchonæ lancifoliæ Corticis contusi libras duas,  
Spiritus rectificati congiū;

Macera per dies quatuor, et cola.  
Destillet tinctura balneo aquoso, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

### *Resinous Extract of Cinchona Bark.*

Take of lance-leaved Cinchona Bark bruised, two pounds,  
Rectified Spirit, a gallon;

Macerate for four days, and strain.  
Distil the tincture by a water-bath, until it has a proper consistence.

The active matter of the bark is, in this way, very effectually extracted, but the preparation has nothing to recommend it in preference to the former, except that it may be supposed generally to be obtained at a lower temperature, and with less continued application of heat; less risk therefore will be incurred of modifying or decomposing those substances, upon which its effects in disease are presumed to depend.

From ten to twenty or thirty grains of either of these extracts of cinchona may be taken at a dose, and repeated as often as the case requires. It is customary to doubt the efficacy of all the extracts of bark, but we think without suf-

ficient reason, and their convenience often recommends them. They are often very properly given dissolved in some aromatic water.

One cwt. of fine crown bark yields, on an average, 38lbs. of watery extract, and 25lbs of spirituous or resinous extract.

### *Extractum Colocynthis.*

**R** Colocynthis Pulpæ libram,  
Aquæ congium;

Decoque ad octarios quatuor, et liquorem adhuc calentem cola; denique eum consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

### *Extract of Colocynth.*

Take of Colocynth Pulp, a pound,  
Water, a gallon;

Boil down to four pints, and strain the liquor while hot; then evaporate it until it has a proper consistence.

After some years' experience of its inutility and inconvenience, it is surprising that this extract should retain its place in the Pharmacopœia. It is invariably either mouldy, or so tough and hard as to resist trituration and formation into pills. Nearly five-sevenths of the pith of the colocynth is soluble in water, so that where any simple preparation of that cathartic, corresponding in efficacy with the above extract, is required, the pith itself may without inconvenience be substituted. But, in such cases, practitioners very properly have recourse to the other drastic purgatives.

### *Extractum Colocynthis Compositum.*

**R** Colocynthis Pulpæ concisæ uncias sex,  
Aloës spicatæ Extracti contriti uncias duodecim,  
Scammoneæ Gummi-resinæ contritæ uncias quatuor,  
Cardamomi Semen contritorum unciam,  
Saponis duri uncias tres,  
Spiritus tenuioris congium;

Macerate Colocynthis Pulpam in Spiritu, leni calore, per quadriduum. Liqueorem cola, eique adjice Aloën, Scammoneam, et Saponem; dein Spiritum consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat, et, sub finem, Cardamomi Semina admisce.

### *Compound Extract of Colocynth.*

Take of Colocynth Pulp sliced, six ounces,  
Extract of spiked Aloe in powder, twelve ounces,  
Scammony Gum-resin in powder, four ounces,  
Cardamom Seeds in powder, an ounce,  
Hard Soap, three ounces,  
Proof Spirit, a gallon;

Macerate the Pulp of Colocynth in the Spirit for four days with a gentle heat; strain the liquor, and add to it the Aloes, Scammony, and Soap; then evaporate the Spirit until the Extract has a proper consistence, and towards the end, mix in the Cardamom Seeds,



This is a very useful and judicious purgative extract, when carefully made according to the above directions. Some sources of its uncertain activity have been adverted to above, and it is frequently injured, by the necessity of heating it, when it has become hard and tough, before it can be moulded into pills, or blended with other articles: it is one of the extracts which it will always be found most convenient to employ in a hard and brittle state, so that it may be powdered. Much difference of opinion has been entertained respecting the propriety of the addition of the soap, which is supposed to render the extract incompatible with calomel; there appears however to be no just ground for this apprehension, and the soap has the great advantage of increasing the solubility of the compound, so that, when cathartic pills chiefly composed of it have hardened by age, they still retain their activity, and are soluble in the secretions of the stomach.

From five to ten or fifteen grains of this extract is an average dose, but it is generally combined with calomel, or used in smaller quantities to sharpen the activity of rhubarb and of the milder aperients. A few drops of one or other of the essential oils is a proper addition to prevent griping.

R Hydrargyri Submuriatis gr. xij.

Extract. Colocynthis compos. ʒss.

Olei Caryophyllorum ℥viiij.

Fiant massa in pilulas aperientes octo dividenda; quarum sumantur duæ vel tres pro dosi.

A milder but active aperient pill is composed as follows:—

R Pulveris Rhei,

Pilulæ Hydrargyri, ʒā ʒss.

Extracti Colocynthis compos. ʒj.

Olei Carui ℥xij.

Divide in pilulas xxiv—duæ, tres, vel quatuor, pro dosi.

### *Extractum Conii.*

R Conii recentis libram;

Contunde in mortario lapideo, insper-so exiguo Aquæ; dein exprime succum, eumque non defæcatum consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

### *Extract of Hemlock.*

Take of fresh Hemlock Leaves, a pound;

Bruise them in a stone mortar, having sprinkled a little Water upon them; then press out the juice, and evaporate it without suffering the dregs to subside, until it acquires a proper consistence.

This and the corresponding preparations of aconite, henbane, belladonna, and lettuce, were formerly designated “*Inspissated Juices*” (*Succi Spissati*). In preparing them, we are very properly directed to evaporate the entire juice, and

not to cleanse it by the separation of the dregs, or green deposit, which soon takes place in it, and which has sometimes been ordered to be rejected. But the degree of pressure to be used, in obtaining these juices from the fresh herbs, is not adverted to in the Pharmacopœia, and it appears to be a matter of some importance; for if it be obtained by light pressure only, the extract is green, and of rather a mealy consistency; whereas, if the herb be thoroughly bruised, and the whole of the juice expressed by a considerable power, the extract is very dark coloured, much more glutinous or viscid, and, probably, less active. In respect to hemlock, the stems and stalks of the herb should be carefully excluded, for although when pressed with the leaves they greatly increase the quantity, they certainly diminish the efficacy of the preparation. But the appearance and qualities of extract of hemlock are by no means always under the operator's command, for they vary extremely with the season, and probably also with the locality of the growth of the herb. It is, I think, an improvement in the preparation of this extract to heat the juice, immediately after its expression, to its boiling point; then to strain, evaporate, and when it becomes nearly of a proper consistency, to add the feculent matter remaining upon the strainer, which in this way escapes long exposure to heat. The proper preparation of this extract almost necessarily requires the use of a steam-apparatus, for in a water-bath the evaporation is so prolonged as to injure it, and over the open fire it invariably suffers from too high a temperature. 1 cwt. of hemlock yields from 3 to 5 lbs. of extract.

The medical uses of hemlock are stated under the head "*Conii Folia*" in the *Materia Medica*. The extract may be prescribed either in the form of pill, or in solution; the latter is the preferable form for children, and it may be given in almond mixture, or any of the usual demulcent vehicles; but in all such cases the administration of any of the narcotics requires very great care and attention as to their effects. The dose is one grain every four or six hours, cautiously increased where the case requires it, to three or four grains, beyond which it should not be carried. Adults may begin with four or five grains for a dose, and it has been extended to twenty grains, which, if the extract be good, is rather a dangerous quantity to administer.

Extract of hemlock should be of a fresh olive-colour; it should not be mouldy, and should be employed as fresh as possible: but as a variety of causes affect its activity it should always be prescribed in small incipient doses and with the precautions which we have elsewhere enumerated (page 85), in regard to this class of remedies in general.



*Extractum Elaterii.*

Elaterii Pepones maturos scinde, et succum levissimè expressum per cribrum setaceum tenuissimum in vas vitreum cola; deinde per aliquot horas sepone, donec crassior pars subsederit. Rejectâ parte tenuiore supernatante, partem crassiorem leni calore exsicca.

*Extract of Elaterium.*

Slice ripe wild Cucumbers, and strain the juice, very gently expressed, through a fine hair sieve into a glass vessel; then set it by for some hours until the thicker part has subsided. Having rejected the thinner supernatant part, dry the thicker part in a gentle heat.

Some remarks upon this preparation and upon the doses in which it is usually administered, will be found above (see page 102). It is unfortunately a medicine of very uncertain activity, though prepared with every possible precaution; hence the practitioner must carefully feel his way in prescribing it. As a mere purge, in very obstinate cases of constipation, it is not an eligible remedy, and inferior in certainty of operation to the expressed oil of the seeds of the *Croton Tiglium* (see *Tiglii Oleum* in the *Materia Medica*); but, as a hydragogue cathartic in dropsy, it will frequently evacuate the water where other diuretics and drastic purges fail to produce any such effect. It may be prescribed as follows:—

R Extracti Elaterii gr. ij.

Sacchari Purificati 3j. gr. ij.

Optimè terantur simul, dein in pulveres octo æquales dividuntur, quarum capiat æger unum omni horæ quadrante, donec adsit catharsis.

*Extractum Gentianæ.*

R Gentianæ Radicis concisæ libram,  
Aquæ ferventis congiū;

Macera per horas viginti quatuor; tum decoque ad octarios quatuor, et liquorem adhuc calentem cola: denique eum consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

*Extract of Gentian.*

Take of Gentian Root sliced, a pound,  
Boiling Water, a gallon;

Macerate for twenty-four hours, then boil down to four pints, and strain the liquor while hot; lastly evaporate it to a proper consistency.

This is a powerfully bitter extract, and may be substituted for that of chamomile, as a vehicle for metallic salts in the form of pill; solution is, however, a preferable form for the greater number of such remedies. It is afforded in the average proportion of 56 lbs. from 1 cwt. of the root.

The following is a good pill in cases where such tonics are proper:—

R Ferri Sulphatis ʒj.  
Myrrhæ Pulver.  
Extract. Gentianæ, aa ʒj.

Divide in pilulas xxx, quarum sumantur ij, vel iij, bis quotidie.

### *Extractum Glycyrrhizæ.*

R Glycyrrhizæ Radicis concisæ libram,  
Aquæ ferventis congium ;

Macerate per horas viginti quatuor ;  
tum decoque ad octarios quatuor, et  
liquorem adhuc calentem cola ; denique  
eum consume, donec idoneam crassitu-  
dinem habeat.

### *Extract of Liquorice.*

Take of Liquorice root, sliced, a pound,  
Boiling Water, a gallon ;

Macerate for twenty-four hours ; then  
boil down to four pints, and strain the  
liquor while hot ; lastly, evaporate it  
until it has a proper consistence.

This extract is an extremely agreeable substitute for that prepared in the South of Europe, and known as “ Spanish Liquorice,” which, both in its original and purified state, has a nauseous burnt flavour, and is not unfrequently adulterated. It is a useful adjunct to some of the nauseous purgatives, concealing their flavour without interfering with their operation ; in this way it is very successfully added to the compound decoction of aloes. Its virtues are merely demulcent, and when used alone, it is generally suffered to dissolve slowly in the mouth to alleviate tracheal and catarrhal irritation. As an inert vehicle for more active remedies the extract is unobjectionable, but it is apt to be easily softened by warmth, and soon to lose its round form when made into pills. One cwt. of liquorice root affords about 28 lbs. of extract.

### *Extractum Hæmatoxyli.*

R Hæmatoxyli Ligni contriti libram,  
Aquæ ferventis congium ;

Macerate per horas viginti quatuor ;  
tum decoque ad octarios quatuor, et  
liquorem adhuc calentem cola ; denique  
eum consume, donec idoneam crassitu-  
dinem habeat.

### *Extract of Logwood.*

Take of Logwood in powder, a pound,  
Boiling Water, a gallon ;

Macerate for twenty-four hours ; then  
boil down to four pints, and strain the  
liquor while hot ; lastly, evaporate it  
until it has a proper consistence.

For preparing this extract the logwood should not be powdered, but rasped, and it should be so far evaporated as to become brittle and pulverulent when cold. 1 cwt. of the wood yields about 20 lbs. of extract. It is considered a good astringent in the treatment of diarrhoea, and has the property, which



is sometimes useful, of colouring the stools of a deep purple. It should be given in solution, and may be prescribed as follows:—

R Extracti Hæmatoxyli ʒj.  
 Pulveris pro Mistura Cretæ 3j.  
 Aquæ Cinnamomi f 3x.  
 Misce pro haustu bis terve in die sumendo.

Or thus, in the form of mixture:—

R Extracti Hæmatoxyli ʒjss.  
 Misturæ Cretæ f ʒvjss.  
 Tincturæ Cardamomi f ʒjss.  
 Fiat mistura cujus sit dosis cochlearia tria magna subinde.

### *Extractum Humuli.*

R Humuli Strobilorum uncias quatuor,  
 Aquæ congium;

Decoque ad octarios quatuor, et liquorem adhuc calentem cola; denique eum consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

### *Extract of Hops.*

Take of Hops, four ounces,  
 Boiling Water, a gallon;

Boil down to four pints, and strain the liquor while hot; then evaporate until it has a proper consistency.

This is said to be a bitter and anodyne extract; as a tonic it may perhaps be useful, but as a sedative it has no merit; or, as Dr. Paris says<sup>1</sup>, “whether it possesses or not any anodyne properties, seems very doubtful.” The dose is the same as that of the other bitter extracts.

The average produce of 1 cwt. of hops is 40 lbs. of extract.

### *Extractum Hyoscyami.*

R Hyoscyami Foliorum recentium libram;

Contunde in mortario lapideo, in sperso exiguo Aquæ; dein exprime succum, eumque non defæcatum consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

### *Extract of Henbane.*

Take of fresh Henbane Leaves, a pound;

Pound them in a stone mortar, sprinkling a little Water upon them; then express the juice, and evaporate it until it acquires a proper consistence.

The observations made above in respect to the preparation of extract of hemlock, apply also to that of henbane: it has a dingy-olive colour, a peculiar and disagreeable smell, and a bitterish saline taste. Respecting its uses some remarks will

<sup>1</sup> Pharmacologia, vol. ii. p. 195.

be found under the article “Hyoscyami Folia” in the *Materia Medica*; it is generally prescribed in pills, and is a valuable and active narcotic. 1 cwt. of the fresh herb affords between 4 and 5 lbs. of extract.

In habitual costiveness it may be conjoined with cathartics, which it deprives partly of their irritating and griping quality without otherwise affecting their operation:

R Extract. Colocynth. compos. ℥ij.

Extract. Hyoscyami ℥j.

Misce et divide in pilulas xij. Sumatur una pro re nata.

In allaying uric irritation it may be united with diuretics, or with alkaline remedies, in those cases where opiates are productive of inconvenience: it may then be given in doses of about eight grains at bed-time, either alone, or as follows:—

R Sodæ Subcarbonatis exsiccatae,

Extract. Hyoscyami, āā gr. viij.

Ol. Juniperi ℥ij.

Divide in pilulas quatuor; sumantur horâ decubitûs.

In chronic rheumatism small doses of extract of henbane with mercurial pill and compound powder of ipecacuanha, may be given every four or six hours; or the following may be taken at bed-time, when the pain comes on in the night, and is relieved by perspiration:

R Pilul. Hydrargyri,

Pulveris Ipecacuanhæ compos.

Extract. Hyoscyami, āā gr. v.

Fiat massa in pilulas iij dividenda. Sumantur horâ somni.

In coughs and pulmonary irritation, Dr. Paris prescribes the following as a very effectual palliative:—

R Extracti Conii,

Extracti Hyoscyami, āā gr. v.

Mucilaginis Acaciæ f 3ij.

Tere simul donec quam optimè misceantur, et deinde adde

Liquoris Ammoniacæ Acetatis,

Aquæ Puræ, āā f 3ss.

Syrupi Rhæados f 3j.

Fiat haustus quartâ quâque horâ sumendus.

### *Extractum Jalapæ.*

R Jalapæ Radicis contritæ libram,  
Spiritûs rectificati octarios quatuor.  
Aquæ congium;

### *Extract of Jalap.*

Take of Jalap Root in powder, a pound.  
Rectified Spirit, four pints.  
Water, a gallon;



Macera Jalapæ Radicem in Spiritu per quatrimum, et tincturam effunde. Residuum ex Aqua decoque ad octarios duos. Dein tincturam et decoctum separatim cola, et hoc consumatur, illa destillet, donec utrumque spissescat. Postremò Extractum cum Resina misce, et consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

Servetur hoc Extractum *molle*, quod ad pilulas fingendas aptum sit, et *durum*, quod in pulverem teri possit.

Macerate the Jalap Root in the Spirit for four days, and pour off the tincture; boil down the residue with Water to two pints; then strain the tincture and the decoction separately, and let the latter be evaporated and the former distilled until each thickens. Lastly, mix the Extract with the Resin, and evaporate to a proper consistence.

This extract should be kept *soft*, fit to form pills, and *hard* so that it may be reduced to powder.

Where it is an object in practice to obtain the peculiar effects of jalap, the powdered root is a preferable form, which is nearly as active as the above extract when given in the same doses, that is, from ten to twenty grains. Extract of jalap is, however, sometimes a convenient addition to purging pills; it is less irritating and not so apt to gripe as compound extract of colocynth, and, when mixed with about half its weight of soap, may generally be depended on as a cathartic; or it may be administered in various combinations with calomel, gamboge, scammony, aloes, &c. The following is a good purging pill, where it is desirable to avoid colocynth:—

R Extracti Jalapæ gr. x.

Saponis duri gr. v.

Misce, et divide in pilulas tres; sumantur horâ somni.

An aperient draught should be given the following morning.

The pure resinous portion of jalap, obtained by evaporating the alcoholic tincture of the root, is a very good purge; it is somewhat tardy in its operation, but generally evacuates the bowels very effectually, in a dose of between five and ten grains. It has a place in several foreign Pharmacopœiæ.

1 cwt. of jalap affords about 50lbs. of watery extract and 15 of resin.

### *Extractum Lactuæ.*

R Lactuæ foliorum recentium libram;

Contunde in mortario lapideo, insper-so exiguo Aquæ: dein exprime succum, eumque non defæcatum consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

### *Extract of Lettuce.*

Take of fresh Lettuce Leaves, a pound,

Bruise them in a stone mortar, sprinkling a little Water upon them; then express the juice, and evaporate, until it acquires a proper consistence.

It admits of a question how far this extract was worth retaining in the Pharmacopœia; for it is a most uncertain narcotic, and, unless very carefully and perfectly dried, soon

becomes mouldy and inert; and in that state, in consequence of its rare employment, it is generally found in the apothecary's shop. As a substitute for opium, it cannot be put into competition with the extracts of henbane and hemlock, nor is it so active as the preparation described above, under the name of *Lactucarium*, (see page 134). The only plea for retaining extract of lettuce, is to prescribe it in those cases of nervous irritability where remedies of little efficacy are sometimes most efficacious. From five to twenty grains may be called a dose. 1 cwt. of lettuce yields between 3 and 4lbs. of extract.

### *Extractum Opii.*

R Opii concisi uncias sedecim,  
Aquæ congium;

Opio adjice exiguum Aquæ, et macera per horas duodecim, ut mollescat; tum, instillatâ paulatim reliquâ Aquâ, tere donec quàm optimè misceantur, et sepone, et fæces subsidant; dein liquorem cola, et consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

### *Extract of Opium.*

Take of Opium sliced, sixteen ounces,  
Water, a gallon;

Add a little Water to the Opium, and macerate for twelve hours that it may become soft; then adding by degrees the rest of the Water, rub them together till they are well mixed, and set them by that the dregs may subside; then strain the liquor, and evaporate until it acquires a proper consistence.

We are no advocates for meddling with crude opium, which, if originally good, cannot be improved; and although, in the above process, much of the active matter of the drug is dissolved and exists in the extract, much also remains behind, for the "dregs" of the above formula yield no inconsiderable portion of morphia. The preparation also has the disadvantage of uncertainty, so that it is sometimes equally active with, and sometimes less active than opium. We have never been able to trace in it any increase of power, and it may generally be given in the usual doses in which opium is administered, and on the same occasions. Between 70 and 80lbs. of extract are generally obtained from 112lbs. of opium.

### *Extractum Papaveris.*

R Papaveris Capsularum contusarum,  
demptis seminibus, libram,  
Aquæ ferventis congium;

Macera per horas viginti quatuor; tum decoque ad octarios quatuor, et liquorem adhuc calentem cola; denique eum consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

### *Extract of Poppy.*

Take of Poppy Capsules, bruised and without seeds, a pound,  
Boiling Water, a gallon;

Macerate for twenty-four hours; then boil down to four pints, and strain the liquor, while it is hot. Lastly, evaporate it until it has a proper consistence.



This extract has the leading characters of opium, but in a mild degree; and it may often be given with advantage in cases where opium would be likely to disagree, conjoined with extract of hemlock or of henbane. The average dose for adults is from five to ten grains. It is apt to have a very troublesome consistence, being too hard to form pills, and too tough to reduce to powder: it should always be carefully dried till brittle enough to reduce to the latter state. If prepared over the open fire it is often nearly inert, its morphia principle having been modified or decomposed by heat; it is, therefore, one of those remedies which vary much in activity, and requires to be carefully prepared either in a water-bath, or by the heat imparted by steam of low pressure. 1 cwt. of the capsules, without seeds, (which often amount to nearly half their weight,) affords the average produce of 35lbs. of extract.

### *Extractum Rhei.*

R Rhei Radicis contritæ libram,

Spiritus tenuioris octarium,  
Aquæ octarios septem;

Macera per quatrimum leni calore;  
dein cola, et sepone, ut fæces subsidant.  
Liquorem effunde, eumque defæcatum  
consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem  
habeat.

### *Extract of Rhubarb.*

Take of Rhubarb Root, in powder,  
pound,  
Proof Spirit, a pint,  
Water, seven pints;

Macerate for four days with a gentle heat; then strain, and set by that the dregs may subside. Pour off the liquor, and, when its dregs have subsided, evaporate until it acquires a proper consistence.

Rhubarb contains about 20 per cent. of inert matter, excluded in the preparation of this extract, which, however, is not proportionately active, for it requires to be given nearly in the same doses as the powdered root, and, as far as pills are concerned, there is little choice between the two. The "infusion of rhubarb" is preferable to a weak solution of this extract; but in larger doses it may be prescribed, not inelegantly, dissolved in any aromatic water, and it is less unpleasant to the palate and throat than the powder of the crude drug.

R Extracti Rhei ʒj. solve in  
Aquæ Carui f 3x. et adde  
Tincturæ Cardamomi compositæ f 3ij.  
Fiat haustus meridiæ sumendus.

*Extractum Sarsaparillæ.*

R Sarsaparillæ Radicis concisæ libram,  
Aquæ ferventis congiū;

Macerate per horas viginti quatuor; tum decoque ad octarios quatuor, et liquorem adhuc calentem cola; denique eum consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

There is much difference of opinion respecting the activity of this extract among those who admit the efficacy of other forms of sarsaparilla: it is certainly a doubtful preparation of that remedy, as it is usually met with, for it is easily decomposed by heat, and suffers more or less during the protracted evaporation that is required. It is chiefly prescribed, dissolved in the decoction of the root, in doses of from 20 to 30 or 40 grains; but an originally strong decoction is a preferable substitute.

It should always be made of the best sarsaparilla, and not of the chumps, and inferior and spoiled bundles of the roots which have been garbled for sale; and should be evaporated to a proper consistency in a steam or water-bath: it then proves an effective addition to the decoction of sarsaparilla. A "compound extract of sarsaparilla" is often prescribed as a substitute for the compound decoction; it has been given in the dose of an ounce daily; dissolved in water. (See *Decoctum Sarsapar.* and *Decoc. Sarsapar. compos.* above.)

The proportion of extract afforded by a given weight of sarsaparilla is extremely various, and samples of the root apparently resembling each other in quality yield it in very different quantities. From 20 to 30lbs. have been obtained from 1 cwt.

*Extract of Sarsaparilla.*

Take of Sarsaparilla Root sliced, a pound,  
Boiling Water, a gallon;

Macerate for twenty-four hours; then boil down to four pints, and strain the liquor while hot; lastly evaporate it to a proper consistence.

*Extractum Stramonii.*

R Stramonii Seminum libram,  
Aquæ ferventis congiū;

Macerate per horas quatuor in vase leviter clauso prope ignem: dein Semina exime, et contunde in mortario lapideo: contusa liquori redde. Tum decoque ad octarios quatuor, et liquorem adhuc calentem cola. Denique eum consume, donec idoneam crassitudinem habeat.

*Extract of Thorn Apple.*

Take of Thorn Apple Seeds, a pound,  
Boiling Water, a gallon;

Macerate for four hours in a covered vessel near the fire: then take out the Seeds and bruise them in a stone mortar: having bruised them, return them into the liquor. Then boil down to four pints and strain the liquor while hot. Lastly evaporate it until it has a proper consistence.



The inspissated juice of the recent herb is a powerfully acting poison; and although the extract of the seeds has been preferred by some practitioners (see page 214), we are far from possessing any satisfactory evidence in its favour. Either extract is extremely uncertain in its effects; it sometimes appears to allay pain, much in the same way as aconite and belladonna; at others, it induces watchfulness and excites irritability. We shall not greatly err in passing judgment upon it as a dangerous and useless article. Extract of stramonium is said to have quelled maniacal paroxysms, but in such cases no permanent benefit was ever derived from it. According to Dr. Paris, its value in such diseases was suggested by a very curious process of reasoning, namely, that as it deranged the intellect of the sane, it might possibly correct that of the insane <sup>1</sup>.

### *Extractum Taraxaci.*

℞ Taraxaci Radicis recentis contusæ  
libram,  
Aquæ ferventis congium;

Macera per horas viginti quatuor;  
tum decoque ad octarios quatuor, et  
liquorem adhuc calentem cola; de-  
nique eum consume, donec idoneam  
crassitudinem habeat.

### *Extract of Dandelion.*

Take of Dandelion Root fresh and  
bruised, a pound,  
Boiling Water, a gallon; †

Macerate for twenty-four hours;  
then boil down to four pints, and strain  
the liquor while hot; lastly, evaporate  
it to a proper consistency.]

When this extract is carefully prepared, it has an agreeable sweet taste and is readily soluble in water. In the *Materia Medica*, under the head “*Taraxaci Radix*,” some of the disorders are mentioned in which good authority has recommended it, especially in hepatic affections, and in certain stages of dyspepsia. It may be given in doses of half a drachm, four or six times a day, dissolved in cinnamon or mint water, a form preferable to that of pill. It has the advantage of producing no mischief if it does no good, and may therefore be prescribed as an alterative in cutaneous affections, and in those derangements of general health which are accompanied by obscure hepatic symptoms, and in which the usual systems of treatment are ineffectual. *Taraxacum* is thought well of by several foreign writers of eminence, and is by them generally recommended in the form of liquid extract, or, as it is sometimes termed, *mellago taraxaci*: the

<sup>1</sup> *Pharmacologia*, vol. ii. p. 195.

expressed juice of the fresh root is also occasionally prescribed, in the dose of two fluidounces every morning, mixed with an equal quantity of milk. It appears to operate as a mild tonic, gently exciting the secretion of the skin and kidneys. 1 cwt. of the fresh root affords from 20 to 25 lbs. of extract.

## MIXTURES.

Under this indefinite term the Pharmacopœia includes a variety of formulæ, several of which might have been preferably entrusted to extemporaneous prescription, and some altogether rejected: they are not of a nature to admit of being kept ready prepared, but should, with the exception, perhaps, of camphor mixture, be made at the time they are prescribed, for some of them are liable to spontaneous decomposition, and others deposit part of the contents originally diffused through the fluid, in an agglutinated and difficultly miscible state.

### *Mistura Ammoniaci.*

R Ammoniaci drachmas duas,  
Aquæ octarium dimidium;

Tere Ammoniacum cum Aqua paulatim instillata, donec quàm optime misceantur.

### *Mixture of Ammoniacum.*

Take of Ammoniacum, two drachms,  
Water, half a pint;

Rub the Ammoniacum with the Water, gradually added to it, till they are perfectly mixed.

This is an advantageous form for the exhibition of ammoniacum, the principal virtues of which have been enumerated under that article in the list of the *Materia Medica*. Clean tears of the gum-resin should be selected for its preparation, and the mixture should appear uniformly milky. To these suspensions of the resinous matter of the gum-resins in water the term *lac* or *milk* was formerly applied, and under that term they are still frequently designated in pharmacy.

The mixture of ammoniacum is used as a slightly stimulating expectorant, and is often of much service in dry hoarse coughs, unattended by decided inflammatory action or a quick pulse, and in the cases which have been alluded to above (page 23). From six drachms to an ounce is the usual dose, and its most elegant accompaniment is almond emulsion; it is thus a favourite vehicle for small doses of squills, or of



ipecacuanha, as in the following prescriptions, applicable to the cases mentioned:—

R Misturæ Ammoniæ,  
Misturæ Amygdalarum, aa f3vj.  
Tincturæ Scillæ ℥x.  
Misce pro haustu ter die sumendo.

R Misturæ Ammoniæ f3j.  
Misturæ Camphoræ f3ss.  
Pulveris Ipecacuanhæ gr. jss.  
Tincturæ Camphoræ compos. f3j.  
Fiat haustus bis die sumendus.

Solution of acetate of ammonia may often be properly substituted for the camphor mixture in this formula.

### *Mistura Amygdalarum.*

R Confectionis Amygdalarum uncias  
duas,  
Aquæ destillatæ octarium;  
Confectioni Amygdalarum Aquam  
paulatim inter terendum adjice, donec  
misceantur; dein cola.

### *Mixture of Almonds.*

Take of Confection of Almonds, two  
ounces,  
Distilled Water, a pint;  
Gradually add the Water to the  
Confection of Almonds, by rubbing  
them together until they are mixed;  
then strain.

Almond milk, or emulsion of almonds, is well known as an agreeable diluting drink in inflammatory febrile affections, and it is often directed, though upon erroneous principles, in preference to other demulcents, in affections of the urinary organs. It is a commonly employed vehicle for refrigerants in fevers, and for expectorants in affections of the lungs, though liable to the serious objection of spontaneous decomposition, for it soon separates into a kind of curd and whey, and afterwards becomes sour, especially in the warm rooms of invalids. Where these inconveniences can be guarded against, its use is unobjectionable, and it very conveniently enables us to alter the form and character of a medicine, by substituting it for water, or other comparatively inert vehicles; a consideration not unfrequently of some importance, especially where a plan of treatment requires to be pursued for a long time. It is an excellent medium for the exhibition of the alkalies and alkaline carbonates in cases of urinary gravel, and they in some measure prevent, or at least postpone its tendency to decomposition. Nitre, and small doses of the

neutro-saline aperients<sup>1</sup>, tincture of squills, and powder or wine of ipecacuanha, are also properly prescribed in this mixture. When ordered for infants, its tendency to acescency should especially be borne in mind, as it has in that way given rise to troublesome diarrhœa. The following formulæ are added for the sake of illustration:—

In uric diathesis—

R Sodæ Carbonatis ʒj.<sup>2</sup>

Misturæ Amygdalarum f ʒjss.

Tinctur. Cardam. compos. f ʒss.

Fiat haustus bis vel ter die sumendus.

A sudorific mixture in inflammatory fever—

R Potassæ Nitratis ʒss.

Liquoris Ammonia Acetatis f ʒjss.

Vini Antimonii Tartarizati f ʒij.

Misturæ Amygdalarum f ʒvj.

Fiat mistura, cujus sit dosis cochlearia tria magna quartâ quâque horâ.

As a vehicle for expectorants in catarrh, mixture of almonds may be thus prescribed—

R Potassæ Subcarbonatis ʒj.

Succi Limonum recentis f ʒjss.

Mellis despumati f ʒj.

Misturæ Amygdalarum f ʒx.

Vini Ipecacuanhæ ℥xxv.<sup>3</sup>

Misce pro haustu, mane, meridie, et vesperi sumendo.

Sometimes bitter almonds are employed for emulsions, with a view to their sedative quality; but if we desire thus to administer the prussic acid, it is preferable to have recourse directly to it, or to the oil of bitter almonds (see page 28), than to trust to a more uncertain form.

### *Mistura Assafœtida.*

R Assafœtidæ drachmas duas,  
Aquæ octarium dimidium;

Tere Assafœtidam cum Aqua paulatim instillata, donec quàm optime misceantur.

### *Mixture of Assafœtida.*

Take of Assafœtida, two drachms,  
Water, half a pint;

Rub the Assafœtida with the water gradually added, till they are thoroughly mixed.

<sup>1</sup> As in the formula at page 275.

<sup>2</sup> Carbonate of Potassa (as at page 265), subcarbonate of magnesia, solution of potassa or of its subcarbonate, and occasionally subcarbonate of ammonia, may be substituted in proper doses.

<sup>3</sup> Or *Tincturæ Scillæ* ℥xxv.



Assafoetida is usually given in the form of pills, though the above is sometimes more active, especially in hysteria, both as an antispasmodic and tonic : but in such cases the mixture should be prepared with peppermint or pennyroyal water, and may then be prescribed in the dose of an ounce or an ounce and a half, with volatile alkali and other proper adjuncts. Some formulæ for the administration of assafoetida will be found at page 43, which render any further remarks superfluous in this place. In children the convulsions symptomatic of the irritation of teething are said to be relieved by a glyster of assafoetida. Where intestinal spasm is concerned, the practice may be admitted.

### *Mistura Camphoræ.*

℞ Camphoræ drachmam dimidiam,  
Spiritus rectificati minima decem,  
Aquæ octarium ;

Camphoram primùm cum Spiritu  
tere, deinde cum Aqua paulatim instil-  
lata, et cola.

### *Mixture of Camphor.*

Take of Camphor, half a drachm,  
Rectified Spirit, ten minims,  
Water, a pint ;

First rub the Camphor with the  
Spirit, then with the Water, adding it  
gradually, and filter.

By this process a very small portion of camphor is retained in solution, yet the mixture, when filtered through paper, is not an inelegant preparation as a vehicle for antispasmodics, where the virtue of camphor is not immediately required. The best forms for the administration of that drug are stated under its name, in the list of the *Materia Medica*. A camphor mixture or julep, preferable to the above, may be made with less trouble by mixing half a fluidounce of camphorated spirit with an equal quantity of rectified spirit, and adding the mixture at once to half a gallon of water, with which it must be thoroughly shaken.

### *Mistura Cornu Usti.*

℞ Cornuum ustorum uncias duas,

Acaciæ Gummi contriti unciam,  
Aquæ octarios tres ;

Decoque ad octarios duos, assidue  
movens ; tum cola.

### *Mixture of Calcined Hartshorn.*

Take of calcined Hartshorn, two  
ounces,  
Gum Arabic, an ounce,  
Water, three pints ;

Boil down to two pints, constantly  
stirring, and strain.

The absurdity of retaining this “mixture” in the Pharmacopœia merits reproof.

### *Mistura Cretæ.*

℞ Cretæ præparatæ unciam dimidiam,  
Sacchari purificati drachmas tres,  
Acaciæ Gummi contriti unciam dimidiam,  
Aquæ octarium;  
Misce.

### *Mixture of Chalk.*

Take of prepared Chalk, half an ounce,  
Refined Sugar, three drachms,  
Gum Arabic in powder, half an ounce,  
Water, a pint;  
Mix.

There is nothing decidedly objectionable in this mixture, but it might, without any inconvenience, have been left to extemporaneous prescription. The sugar is often required to be omitted; and in place of common water, some one of the aromatic distilled waters is usually preferable. It is almost exclusively used in common diarrhœa, combined with astringents, as in the formulæ at pages 68 and 80.

### *Mistura Ferri Composita.*

### *Compound Mixture of Iron.*

℞ Myrrhæ contritæ drachmam,  
Potassæ Subcarbonatis grana viginti quinque,  
Aquæ Rosæ fluiduncias septem cum semisse,  
Ferri Sulphatis contritæ scrupulum,  
Spiritus Myristicæ fluidunciam dimidiam,  
Sacchari purificati drachmam;

Myrrham cum Spiritu Myristicæ et Potassæ Subcarbonate simul tere, hisque, inter terendum, primùm Aquam Rosæ cum Saccharo, deinde Ferri Sulphatem adjice. Misturam statim in vas vitreum idoneum immitte, idque obtura.

Take of Myrrh, in powder, a drachm,  
Subcarbonate of Potassa, twenty-five grains,  
Rose Water, seven ounces and a half,  
Sulphate of Iron, in powder, a scruple,  
Spirit of Nutmeg, half a fluid-ounce,  
Purified Sugar, a drachm;

Rub the Myrrh well with the Spirit of Nutmeg and Subcarbonate of Potassa, and to these, whilst rubbing, add first the Rose Water with the Sugar, and then the Sulphate of Iron. Put the mixture immediately into a proper glass bottle, and stop it.

This mixture has been adverted to in speaking generally of the uses of iron, under the article “Ferrum,” in the *Materia Medica*. It is nearly the same as the celebrated antihectic mixture of Dr. Griffith. When carefully prepared, according to the above formula, it is of a deep green colour, which, it



retains if excluded from the contact of air, and the deposit which separates is at any time again easily diffused through it by agitation. It is said to be preferably prepared by selecting a lump of fine myrrh of the proper weight, and triturating it in the first instance into a perfectly even emulsion with the rose water; then adding the spirit of nutmeg, subcarbonate of potassa, and sugar; and, lastly, dissolving in it the sulphate of iron.

This is an excellent and valuable tonic, frequently admissible where other preparations of iron cannot be employed: if it feel cold upon the stomach, an additional drachm of spirit of nutmeg may be added to each dose, which also prevents griping; sometimes it constipates, but that effect usually goes off after the first few doses. From one to two ounces may be given, as occasion requires, from once to four times a day; an ounce and a half twice a day, namely at noon and an hour before dinner, is generally the right thing to begin with; and, if it agrees, it improves the appetite, increases the tone of the muscular fibre, and ameliorates the general complexion of the patient more safely and decidedly than the other chalybeates (see page 306).

### *Mistura Guaiaci.*

R Guaiaci Gummi-resinæ drachmam  
cum semisse,  
Sacchari purificati drachmas duas,  
Mucilaginis Acaciæ Gummi fluid-  
drachmas duas,  
Aquæ Cinnamomi fluiduncias octo;

Tere Guaiacum cum Saccharo, deinde  
cum Mucilagine, hisque, inter teren-  
dum, Aquam Cinnamomi paulatim  
adjice.

### *Mixture of Guaiacum.*

Take of Guaiacum Gum-resin, a drachm  
and a half,  
Purified Sugar, two drachms,  
Mucilage of Gum Arabic, two  
fluidrachms,  
Cinnamon Water, eight fluid-  
ounces;

Rub the Guaiacum with the Sugar,  
then with the Mucilage, and to these,  
whilst rubbing, gradually add the Cin-  
namon Water.

From half an ounce to an ounce and half of this mixture may be given twice or thrice daily, in cases where simple guaiacum is required: it is, however, seldom conveniently given alone, requiring some of the adjuncts pointed out above, at page 114; and, upon the whole, this *mistura guaiaci* cannot be regarded as a useful formula.

*Mistura Moschi.*

℞ Moschi,  
 Acaciæ Gummi contriti,  
 Sacchari purificati, singulorum  
 drachmam,  
 Aquæ Rosæ fluiduncias sex;  
 Tere Moschum cum Saccharo, de-  
 inde cum Gummi, instillata paulatim  
 Aqua Rosæ.

*Mixture of Musk.*

Take of Musk,  
 Gum Arabic in powder,  
 Refined Sugar, of each a  
 drachm,  
 Rose Water, six fluidounces;  
 Rub the Musk with the Sugar, then  
 with the Gum, adding the Rose Water  
 by degrees.

The efficacy of musk, under any form, is doubtful, and it is at all events best left to extemporaneous prescription. Ammonia, æther, and camphor, are its usual adjuncts, and they may be combined with the above mixture, or recourse may be had to the formulæ given at page 149.

## SPIRITS.

Under the articles "Spiritus Rectificatus" and "Spiritus Tenuior," in the Materia Medica, the general medicinal characters of the different wines and spirituous liquors in common use are described; and it is there stated that the rectified spirit of the Pharmacopœia is a mixture of alcohol and water, in the proportion, by measure, of 96·50 of alcohol to 3·50 of water. The alcohol, however, there referred to, is assumed as having a specific gravity of ·825 at the temperature of 60°; a specific gravity at which it still retains a considerable proportion of water, of which it may to a great extent be further deprived by distilling it with substances which, in consequence of their strong attraction for water, either abstract it, or prevent it rising in vapour, at temperatures sufficient for the distillation of alcohol.

One of these methods is resorted to in the following formula from the Pharmacopœia:

*Alcohol.*

℞ Spiritûs rectificati congiûm,  
 Potassæ Subcarbonatis libras tres;

Spiritui injice Potassæ Subcarbonatis libram, ad gradum trecentessimum prius calefactam, et per horas viginti quatuor macera, sæpiùs movens; tum effuso Spiritui adjice Potassæ Sub-

*Alcohol.*

Take of rectified Spirit, a gallon,  
 Subcarbonate of Potassa, three  
 pounds;

Add a pound of the Subcarbonate of Potassa, previously heated to 300°, to the Spirit, and macerate for twenty-four hours, frequently stirring; then having poured off the Spirit, add to it



carbonatis quod reliquum est, ad eundem gradum calefactum; denique balneo aquoso destillet Alcohol, quod servandum est in vase obturato.

Alcoholis pondus specificum est ad pondus specificum Aquæ destillatæ, ut ·815 ad 1·000.

the rest of the Subcarbonate of Potassa heated to the same degree; lastly, with the aid of a water-bath, let the Alcohol distil over, which keep in a well stopped vessel.

The specific gravity of Alcohol is to the specific gravity of distilled Water, as ·815 to 1·000.

The effect of adding the first portion of the subcarbonate of potassa to the rectified spirit is the gradual abstraction of a large portion of the water previously combined with it, so that the liquor separates into two portions, the lowermost of which is an aqueous solution of the alkaline salt; the spirit which floats upon it is then decanted, the remainder of the subcarbonate is added, and the alcohol is distilled off, the process being most conveniently conducted, if on a small scale, in a tubulated glass retort, or in an alembic of any required dimensions.

Subcarbonate of potassa, though exceeding soluble in, and strongly attracting water, is perfectly insoluble in alcohol, and is therefore well adapted for the first part of the above process; but a purer alcohol may be obtained by employing in the second or distillatory part of the process, a portion of chloride of calcium, which more perfectly abstracts and retains the remaining water. There is, however, no pharmaceutical process or preparation for which the strongest alcohol is absolutely necessary, and the formula might have been altogether omitted without inconvenience.

The strongest alcohol which has yet been procured has a specific gravity of ·796 at the temperature of 60°, and is by some considered as entirely free from water, and therefore is *pure* alcohol. The alcohol above directed, of the specific gravity ·815, consists of about 93 per cent. *by weight*, of such pure alcohol, and 7 of water; and the rectified spirit of the Pharmacopœia, (specific gravity ·835) contains about 85 per cent. *by weight*, of the pure alcohol, and 15 of water.

Alcohol, purified by these processes, is a colourless and transparent liquid, of a fragrant odour, and an extremely strong penetrating flavour. It has never been frozen. It is extremely volatile, and when of the specific gravity ·825 it boils, under mean atmospheric pressure, at the temperature of 176°; but its boiling point of course varies considerably with its degree of purity. It readily mixes in all proportions with water, heat being evolved, and a considerable increase of density ensuing, the precise extent of which may be learned from Mr.

Gilpin's tables<sup>1</sup>; one of which, that calculated to the temperature of 60°, is reprinted in my Manual of Chemistry, for the convenience of reference.

Alcohol burns with a pale blue flame, and the products of its combustion in oxygen are carbonic acid and water; it is decomposed when passed through a red hot tube, and by a careful examination of the products of its combustion, and of its decomposition, chemists have endeavoured to ascertain the precise weight of its ultimate elements. The experiments of Saussure upon this subject appear to have been made with great care, and may therefore be adopted as near approximations to correctness; from them it appears, that assuming 100 parts of alcohol of the specific gravity of .830 at 60°, to consist 13.8 water and 86.2 real or anhydrous alcohol, the latter affords on decomposition —

|               |                             |            |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Carbon.....   | 51.98 = 2 proportionals.... | (6×2) = 12 |
| Oxygen .....  | 34.32 = 1 ditto .....       | = 8        |
| Hydrogen .... | 13.70 = 3 ditto .....       | (1×3) = 3  |
|               | <hr/>                       | <hr/>      |
|               | 100                         | 23         |

The annexed theoretical proportionals very nearly agree with the experimental result, and the elements bear such relation to each other, as to enable us to represent absolute alcohol as a compound of—

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1 proportional of Carburetted Hydrogen ..... | = 14  |
| 1 ————— Water .....                          | = 9   |
|  | <hr/> |
|  | 23    |

Or, adopting M. Gay Lussac's view of its composition as consisting of one volume of carburetted hydrogen and one of aqueous vapour, the *two* volumes being condensed into *one* by combination, an estimate closely agreeing with the specific gravity of the vapour of alcohol; for the specific gravity of olefiant gas compared with atmospheric air is .978, and that of aqueous vapour .625, which added together = 1.603; and the specific gravity of the vapour of alcohol is 1.613.

The medical and pharmaceutical uses of alcohol have already been adverted to in other parts of this work. It is employed in various combinations and states of dilution as a powerful and diffusible stimulus, of which the physician avails himself in all cases where it is requisite quickly to rouse the powers of the system, or to maintain increased vascular action and nervous energy. The *modus operandi* of alcohol appears to be

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<sup>1</sup> Philos. Trans. 1794.



distinctly shown by the experiments of Mr. Brodie, to consist in disturbance of the action of the brain, induced through the medium of the nerves of the stomach, and not by any direct absorption, as some have supposed. In experiments in which he killed animals by the injection of spirits into the stomach<sup>1</sup>, he always found that organ inflamed, but no preternatural appearances in the brain; and sometimes death was so instantaneously produced as to exclude all suspicion of the possibility of ordinary absorption. That the general effects of alcohol upon the system arise from its action upon the nerves of the stomach is, in some instances, further shown by a person who is intoxicated becoming suddenly sober after vomiting.

Alcohol more or less diluted is very frequently employed as an external stimulus, and is occasionally added to lotions with a view to the cold which it creates by evaporation.

As a pharmaceutical agent, alcohol is a powerful solvent of the resins, of essential oils, and several other of the proximate vegetable principles, as seen in the tinctures, spirits, and other alcoholic preparations of the Pharmacopœia.

Of the following list of spirituous compounds, those which derive their principal activity from ammonia would have been more conveniently placed under the preparations of that alkali; the others are spirituous solutions of essential oils, with the exception of the “ammoniated spirit of meadow saffron,” and the “compound spirit of lavender,” both of which would have been more consistently placed among the tinctures.

### *Spiritus Ammoniæ.*

R Spiritus tenuioris octarios tres,  
Ammoniæ Muriatis uncias quatuor,  
Potassæ Subcarbonatis uncias sex;

Misce, et lento igne in receptaculum frigefactum destillet octarius cum semisse.

### *Spirit of Ammonia.*

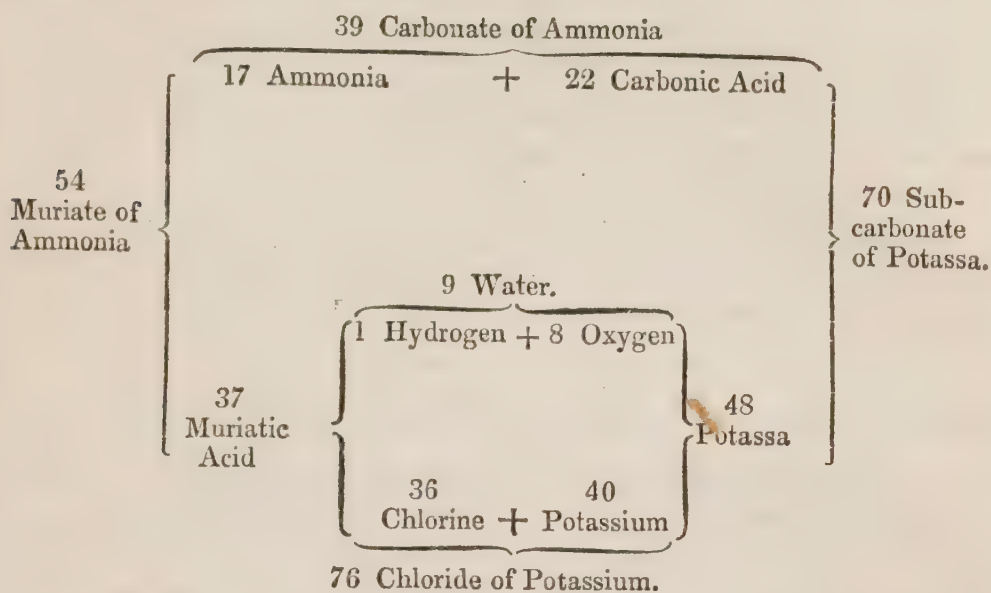
Take of Proof Spirits three pints,  
Muriate of Ammonia, four ounces,  
Subcarbonate of Potassa, six ounces;

Mix, and, with a slow fire, let a pint and a half be distilled over into a cooled receiver.

In this humid decomposition of muriate of ammonia by subcarbonate of potassa the results do not coincide with those above stated, as occurring during the decomposition of the muriate by carbonate of lime in the dry way (see page 253). In the present instance, a *carbonate*, and not a sesquicarbonate

<sup>1</sup> Phil. Trans. 1811, p. 182.

of ammonia appears to be formed, which passes over with and is dissolved by the alcohol, while the residuary water holds chloride of potassium in solution. The following diagram exhibits the mutual decomposition of the salts, and the annexed equivalent numbers show their required weights, and those of the products:—



It appears therefore that the formula prescribes the subcarbonate in some excess, which is correct, as allowing for the water contained in that salt in the state in which it usually occurs.

Spirit of ammonia is a transparent colourless fluid, of a pungent smell and acrid taste, principally employed in the preparation of other ammoniated formulæ, and occasionally as a stimulating liniment, either alone, or mixed with the *Linimentum Saponis Compositum*. The following is its usual substitute in all prescriptions for internal use:—

*Spiritus Ammoniac Aromaticus.*

℞ Cinnamomi Corticis contusi,  
 Caryophyllorum contusorum, singulorum drachmas duas,  
 Limonum Corticis uncias quatuor,  
 Potassæ Subcarbonatis libram dimidiam,  
 Ammoniac Muriatis uncias quinque,  
 Spiritus rectificati octarios quatuor,  
 Aquæ congium;  
 Misce, et destillent octarii sex.

*Aromatic Spirit of Ammonia.*

Take of Cinnamon Bark bruised,  
 Cloves bruised, of each two drachms,  
 Lemon Peel, four ounces,  
 Subcarbonate of Potassa, half a pound,  
 Muriate of Ammonia, five ounces,  
 Rectified Spirit, four pints,  
 Water, a gallon;  
 Mix, and let six pints be distilled.



Although in this formula the relative proportions of sub-carbonate of potassa and muriate of ammonia are not quite what they should be, it furnishes, upon the whole, a good process for the preparation of an old and favourite remedy. It is employed in the dose of 20 to 60 minims in an ounce or an ounce and a half of any proper vehicle, such as water or camphor mixture; and is rendered by the aromatics more agreeable to the stomach than the simple spirit of ammonia. It is very commonly prescribed with æthereal preparations; and being compatible with sulphate of magnesia, is usefully added to aperient draughts containing that salt, as a preventive of spasm and flatulency (see page 141). This compound becomes brown by keeping, an effect in some measure to be attributed to the essential oil of cloves.

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*Spiritus Ammoniaë Fœtidus. Fetid Spirit of Ammonia.*

R Spiritus Ammoniaë octarios duos,  
Assafœtidæ uncias duas;

Macera per horas duodecim; tum  
lento igne in receptaculum frigefactum  
destillet octarius cum semisse.

Take of Spirit of Ammonia, two pints,  
Assafœtida, two ounces;

Macerate for twelve hours; then,  
with a slow fire, let a pint and half be  
distilled over into a receiver kept cold.

By distilling assafœtida with spirit of ammonia, a solution of the volatile odorous principle of the gum-resin is obtained; but this preparation is rarely resorted to, and might without any inconvenience have been omitted, since a combination of spirit of ammonia and tincture of assafœtida, extemporaneously made, may always be substituted for it. When prescribed, it is in nervous and hysterical cases, in the dose of about one drachm.

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*Spiritus Ammoniaë Succinatus.*

R Mastiches drachmas tres,  
Spiritus rectificati fluidrachmas novem,  
Lavandulae Olei minima quatuordecim,  
Succini Olei minima quatuor,  
Liquoris Ammoniaë fluiduncias decem;

Mastichen in Spiritu macera, ut liquetur, et tincturam defæcatam effunde; tum cætera adjice, et omnia simul agita.

*Succinated Spirit of Ammonia.*

Take of Mastich, three drachms,  
Rectified Spirit, nine fluidrachms,  
Oil of Lavender, fourteen minims,  
Oil of Amber, four minims,  
Solution of Ammonia, ten fluidounces;

Macerate the Mastich in the Spirit, that it may be dissolved, and pour off the clear tincture; then add the other ingredients, and shake them all together.

This is intended as a substitute for *Eau de Luce*, and is given as a powerful nervous stimulant, supposed to derive some additional efficacy from the oil of amber. The dose is about 20 or 30 minims in an ounce and a half of camphor mixture. In India it has gained some celebrity as a remedy in cases of the bites of poisonous snakes, cases in which ammonia and other stimulants are generally proper. Its odour would be more agreeable without the oil of amber. The mastich is added to confer a permanent milkiness upon the mixture.

*Spiritus Anisi.*

R Anisi Seminum contusorum libram  
dimidiam,  
Spiritus tenuioris congiū,  
Aquæ quod satis sit ad prohibendum  
empyreuma ;  
Macerate per horas viginti quatuor ;  
tum lento igne destillet congius.

*Spirit of Aniseed.*

Take of Aniseed bruised, half a pound,  
  
Proof Spirit, a gallon,  
Water, a sufficient quantity to  
prevent empyreuma ;  
Macerate for twenty-four hours ;  
then, with a slow fire, let one gallon be  
distilled over.

This and several analogous solutions of essential oils in proof spirit may also be extemporaneously prepared by employing the oil, instead of the seed or other part of the plant prescribed ; but they are then more apt to remain milky, unless a stronger than proof spirit be used.

Spirit of aniseed is a good stomachic, and quells flatulency ; it may be rendered a pleasant *liqueur*, known among the French under the name of *crème d'anise* or *anisettes*, by duly sweetening it with refined sugar.

*Spiritus Armoraciæ Compositus.*

R Armoraciæ Radicis recentis concisæ,  
Aurantii Corticis exsiccati, singulorum libram,  
Myristicæ Nucleorum contusorum unciam dimidiam,  
Spiritus tenuioris congiū,  
Aquæ quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma ;  
Macerate per horas viginti quatuor ;  
tum lento igne destillet congius.

*Compound Spirit of Horseradish.*

Take of Horseradish Root fresh and sliced,  
Dried Orange Peel, of each a pound,  
Nutmegs bruised, half an ounce,  
Proof Spirit, a gallon,  
Water, a sufficient quantity to prevent empyreuma ;  
Macerate for twenty-four hours ;  
then, with a slow fire, let one gallon be distilled.



This is a remnant of one of the antiscorbutic spirits of old pharmacy; they are of no peculiar efficacy, and the above, with the rest, might have been consigned to oblivion. Dr. Paris says that this spirit is a useful adjunct to stimulating diaphoretics and warm cathartics, in the dose of two or three drachms.

### *Spiritus Camphoræ.*

R Camphoræ uncias quatuor,  
Spiritus rectificati octarios duos;  
Misce, ut liquetur Camphora.

### *Spirit of Camphor.*

Take of Camphor, four ounces,  
Rectified Spirit, two pints;  
Mix, that the Camphor may be dissolved.

Alcoholic solution of camphor is a very convenient form of that drug; it may be given in the dose of from 5 to 20 drops, in a wine-glassful of water, as an extemporaneous camphor julep; and may be employed as above stated, in the preparation of camphor mixture. With olive oil, or compound soap liniment, or spirit of ammonia, it forms a valuable application to strains and parts affected with chronic rheumatism; and it is often used with success as a discutient application to chilblains. Applied on a linen rag to an incipient whitloe, it not unfrequently dissipates the inflammation; it is also used as a stimulant and antiputrefactive in many cases of gangrene.

### *Spiritus Carui.*

R Carui Semen contusorum libram  
cum semisse,  
Spiritus tenuioris congiū,  
Aquæ quod satis sit ad prohibendum  
empyreuma;

Macerate per horas viginti quatuor;  
tum lento igne destillet congius.

### *Spirit of Caraway.*

Take of Caraway Seeds bruised, a  
pound and a half,  
Proof Spirit, a gallon,  
Water, a sufficient quantity to  
prevent empyreuma;

Macerate for twenty-four hours;  
then, with a slow fire, distil one gal-  
lon.

Oil of caraway thus dissolved constitutes a very comfortable carminative, especially when the compound is sweetened with refined sugar; it then forms a dram much used in Germany, and when had recourse to in moderation is effective and agreeable as a preventive of flatulency. The principal medicinal use of this spirit and its associates in the Pharmacopœia is as an addition to formulæ containing metallic salts, or other preparations which are decomposed or discoloured by the vegetable substances held in solution by the tinctures.

*Spiritus Cinnamomi.**Spirit of Cinnamon.*

R Olei Cinnamomi *pondere* scrupulos  
quinque,  
Spiritus rectificati octarios quatuor  
cum semisse;

Take of Oil of Cinnamon, *by weight*,  
five scruples,  
Rectified Spirit, four pints and  
a half;

Oleo Spiritum adjice, et tantum  
Aquæ affunde, ut post destillationem  
supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum  
empyreuma; tum lento igne destillet  
congius.

Add the Spirit to the Oil, and pour  
on them so much water that, after  
distillation, enough may remain to  
prevent empyreuma; then, with a  
slow fire, distil one gallon.

This spirit might, with equal propriety, have been distilled as formerly, from cinnamon bark. It is a heating but agreeable cordial; unnecessarily, however, retained in the Pharmacopœia.

*Spiritus Colchici Ammoni-  
atus.**Ammoniated Spirit of  
Meadow Saffron.*

R Colchici Seminum contusorum  
uncias duas,  
Spiritus Ammoniæ aromatici oc-  
tarium;

Take of Meadow Saffron Seeds bruised,  
two ounces,  
Aromatic Spirit of Ammonia,  
a pint;

Macera per dies quatuordecim et  
cola.

Macerate for fourteen days, and  
strain.

The seeds of colchicum are by some preferred to the root, as being less liable to disorder the stomach and bowels, and equally effective in other respects; but the above spirit, or rather tincture, is not a convenient formula, inasmuch as it is often desirable to omit the ammonia, and as, whenever it is requisite, it might have been extemporaneously added. There are several preparations of colchicum in the Pharmacopœia; none of them, in our opinion, unobjectionable. A tincture of the dried root (prepared with the precautions pointed out by Mr. Thomson, and quoted at page 82,) in proof spirit, furnishes a very effective form; a prescription for which, for the reason just stated, is here inserted:—

R Colchici Radicis concisæ et siccatae ʒij.

Spiritus tenuioris, octarium;

Macera per dies quatuordecim, et per chartam cola. Sit dosis  
ʒ3ss. ad ʒ3ij.



*Spiritus Juniperi Compositus.**Compound Spirit of Juniper.*

℞ Juniperi Baccarum contusarum libram,  
 Carui Seminum contusorum,  
 Fœniculi Seminum contusorum,  
 singulorum unciam cum semisse,  
 Spiritûs tenuioris congium,  
 Aquæ quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma;

Macera per horas viginti quatuor;  
 tum lento igne destillet congius.

Take of Juniper Berries bruised, a pound,  
 Caraway Seeds bruised,  
 Fennel Seeds bruised, of each an ounce and a half,  
 Proof Spirit, a gallon,  
 Water, a sufficient quantity to prevent empyreuma;

Macerate for twenty-four hours; then, with a slow fire, let one gallon be distilled.

This is generally regarded as a diuretic, and as such occasionally prescribed in conjunction with other remedies of that class, as in the prescription at page 132; it is, however, a very insignificant auxiliary, and by no means to be considered as a useful formula.

*Spiritus Lavandulæ.**Spirit of Lavender.*

℞ Lavandulæ Florum recentium libras duas,  
 Spiritûs rectificati congium,  
 Aquæ quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma.

Macera per horas viginti quatuor;  
 tum lento igne destillet congius.

Take of fresh Lavender Flowers, two pounds,  
 Rectified Spirit, a gallon,  
 Water, a sufficient quantity to prevent empyreuma;

Macerate for twenty-four hours; then, with a gentle fire, let one gallon be distilled.

This very unimportant pharmaceutical preparation forms a part of the next formula, and of that for compound camphor liniment, in both of which essential oil of lavender might have been unobjectionably substituted; nor is there any necessity to resort to the recent flowers as above directed, for those which are carefully dried yield an equally fragrant product. As this preparation is made with rectified spirit, it may be substituted for it in lotions and other cases, where we wish to avail ourselves of the perfume, which is one of the most agreeable that we possess.

What is sold under the name of *lavender water* is, with very few exceptions, not a distilled spirit, but an alcoholic solution of oil of lavender, to which other scents are occa-

sionally added. Each manufacturer has generally his own recipe, so that here we can only give one of the most approved as a sample :—

Take of Rectified Spirit of Wine, 5 gallons,  
 Essential Oil of Lavender, 20 ounces,  
 ————— Bergamotte, 5 ounces,  
 Essence of Ambergris<sup>1</sup>, half an ounce.

Mix.

Four ounces of powdered orris root are sometimes digested in the above, to soften and improve its flavour, which also is materially ameliorated by keeping.

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*Spiritus Lavandulæ Compositus.*      *Compound Spirit of Lavender.*

R Spiritûs Lavandulæ octarios tres,  
 Spiritûs Rosmarini octarium,  
 Cinnamomi Corticis contusi,  
 Myristicæ Nucleorum contusorum,  
     singulorum unciam dimidiam,  
 Pterocarpi Ligni concisi unciam ;

Macera per dies quatuordecim, et  
 cola.

Take of Spirit of Lavender, three  
 pints,  
 Spirit of Rosemary, a pint,  
 Cinnamon Bark bruised,  
 Nutmegs bruised, of each  
     half an ounce,  
 Red Saunders Wood sliced,  
     an ounce ;

Macerate for fourteen days, and  
 strain.

This is a common and convenient domestic restorative, resorted to in languors, spasms, and flatulency, and is most conveniently taken in the dose of twenty to sixty drops, upon

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<sup>1</sup> Made by digesting one drachm of ambergris and eight grains of musk in half a pint of alcohol.

These essences, containing ambergris and musk, were formerly much used as cordials and antispasmodics. The following is one of the most celebrated of these formulæ, called in the old Paris Pharmacopœia *Tinctura Regia*. The civet may be omitted without detriment.

R Ambra Griseæ veræ ʒij.

Moschi ʒj.

Zibethi gr. x.

Olei Ess. Cinnamomi gutt. vj.

———— Ligni Rhodii gutt. iv.

Spiritûs Vini odore florum Rosæ et

Aurantii impregnati ʒivss.

Solvatur ambra leniter ebulliendo in hōc spiritu, et deinceps volatilia addantur. Dosis, gutt. x. ad xxx. è vino.

Hæc tinctura, parçâ quantitate rebus odoratis adstillatâ, illarum aroma [mirè exaltat.



a lump of sugar. With the same intention it occasionally forms an article in prescriptions, but in that way its flavour is not very agreeable. A tea-spoonful of *lavender drops*, in a wine-glassful of camphor julep, is a sovereign remedy for low spirits.

### *Spiritus Menthæ Piperitæ.*

R Olei Menthæ piperitæ *pondere* scrupulos sex cum semisse,  
Spiritus rectificati octarios quatuor cum semisse;

Oleo Spiritum adjice, et tantum Aquæ affunde, ut post destillationem supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma; tum lento igne destillet congius.

### *Spirit of Peppermint.*

Take of Oil of Peppermint, *by weight*,  
six scruples and a half,  
Rectified Spirit, four pints and a half;

Add the Spirit to the Oil, and pour on them so much Water, that, after distillation, enough may remain to prevent empyreuma; then, with a slow fire, let one gallon be distilled.

In this and the following spirit, the essential oils are now substituted for the dried herbs, which were formerly not inconveniently employed in the proportion of a pound and a half to a gallon of proof spirit. The present formulæ yield preparations of more equable strength or flavour, but they are unimportant incumbrances to the Pharmacopœia. What is generally termed *essence of peppermint* is a good carminative, in the dose of eight or ten drops upon a lump of sugar. It is a solution of one part of essential oil of peppermint in three of alcohol, and is sometimes coloured green by a little spinach juice. A compound of gin and oil of peppermint is much esteemed by the vulgar as a cordial dram.

### *Spiritus Menthæ Viridis.*

R Olei Menthæ viridis *pondere* scrupulos sex cum semisse,  
Spiritus rectificati octarios quatuor cum semisse;

Oleo Spiritum adjice, et tantum Aquæ affunde, ut post destillationem supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma: tum lento igne destillet congius.

### *Spirit of Spearmint.*

Take of Oil of Spearmint, *by weight*,  
six scruples and a half,  
Rectified Spirit, four pints and a half;

Add the Spirit to the Oil, and pour on them so much Water, that, after distillation, enough may remain to prevent empyreuma; then, with a slow fire, let one gallon be distilled.

Like most of the other spirits, that of spearmint is prescribed in the dose of half a drachm to two drachms, as a warming and flavouring addition to draughts and mixtures.

An *essence of mint* may be prepared, as that of peppermint; and a stomachic liqueur, consisting of rectified brandy, oil of mint, and sugar, is much esteemed abroad as a liqueur, under the name of *crème de menthe*.

### *Spiritus Myristicæ.*

R Myristicæ Nucleorum contusorum  
uncias duas,  
Spiritus tenuioris congium,  
Aquæ quod satis sit ad prohiben-  
dum empyreuma;  
Macerate per horas viginti quatuor;  
tum lento igne destillet congium.

### *Spirit of Nutmeg.*

Take of Nutmegs bruised, two ounces,  
  
Proof Spirit, a gallon,  
Water, a sufficient quantity to  
prevent empyreuma;  
Macerate for twenty-four hours; then,  
with the aid of a slow fire, let one  
gallon distil over.

This spirit has a pleasant flavour of the nutmeg, and is often prescribed in quantities of half a drachm or a drachm, with the common saline draught; and in other cases where delicacy rather than strength of flavour is required.

### *Spiritus Pimentæ.*

R Pimentæ Baccarum contusarum un-  
cias duas,  
Spiritus tenuioris congium,  
Aquæ quod satis sit ad prohibendum  
empyreuma;  
Macerate per horas viginti quatuor;  
tum lento igne destillet congium.

### *Spirit of Pimenta.*

Take of Pimenta Berries bruised, two  
ounces,  
Proof Spirit, a gallon,  
Water, a sufficient quantity to  
prevent empyreuma;  
Macerate for twenty-four hours; then,  
with a slow fire, distil one gallon.

Spirit of pimenta is rendered useless by pimenta water; otherwise it is a pleasant aromatic for the purpose of covering nauseous flavours, especially those of rhubarb, and of the saline aperients, as in the following mixture:—

R Magnesiae Sulphatis ℥j.  
Infusi Rosæ compos. f ℥viss.  
Spiritus Pimentæ f ℥j.  
Syrupi Zingiberis f ℥ss.

Fiat mistura, cujus sumatur cyathus pro re natâ.

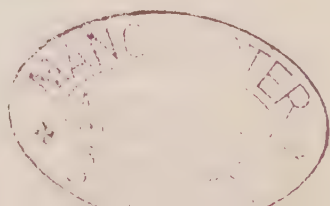
### *Spiritus Pulegii.*

R Olei Pulegii *pondere* scrupulos sep-  
tem,  
Spiritus rectificati octarios quatuor  
cum semisse;

### *Spirit of Pennyroyal.*

Take of Oil of Pennyroyal, *by weight*,  
seven scruples,  
Rectified Spirit, four pints and  
a half;

2 F





Oleo Spiritum adjice, et tantum Aquæ affunde, ut post destillationem supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma; tum lento igne destillet congius.

Add the Spirit to the Oil, and pour on them so much Water, that, after the distillation, a sufficient quantity may remain to prevent empyreuma; then, with the aid of a slow fire, let one gallon distil over.

In hysteric and uterine obstructions the old physicians thought much of pennyroyal, and in such cases the above spirit now and then makes its appearance in a prescription.

### *Spiritus Rosmarini.*

R Olei Rosmarini *pondere unciam*,

Spiritus rectificati congius;

Oleo Spiritum adjice, et tantum Aquæ affunde, ut post destillationem supersit quod satis sit ad prohibendum empyreuma; tum lento igne destillet congius.

### *Spirit of Rosemary.*

Take of Oil of Rosemary, *by weight*, an ounce,

Rectified Spirit, a gallon;

Add the Spirit to the Oil, and pour on them so much Water, that, after distillation, enough may remain to prevent empyreuma; then, with a slow fire, let one gallon be distilled.

The process of distillation is here manifestly superfluous. Spirit of rosemary is a pleasant perfume, and almost limited to external use, as an occasional addition to lotions and liniments. It is a leading ingredient in Hungary water, and in most of the compounds called vulnerary or arquebusade waters. *Hungary water*, as it is generally sold, is a mixture of the spirits of lavender and rosemary, but the following is the genuine recipe:—

Take of Fresh Rosemary in blossom, 4 pounds,

—— Sage . . . . . 8 ounces,

Ginger Root . . . . . 2 ounces.

Cut, bruise, and pour upon them 12 pints of rectified spirit, and two pints of water. Distil, with a slow fire, 11 pints.

*Eau de Cologne* also contains oil of rosemary: there are several formulæ for it; among them the following:—

Take of Alcohol, 1 pint,

Oil of Bergamotte,

—— Orange-Peel,

—— Rosemary, of each 1 drachm,

Bruised Cardamom Seeds, 1 drachm,

Orange Flower Water, 1 pint.

Distil (from a water-bath) 1 pint.

## TINCTURES.

Tinctures, with the exception of those few which contain very active ingredients, are not important pharmaceutical preparations; though they are extensively employed, they are by no means indispensable; and in hospitals and other situations where economy is an object, their place, as well as that of the spirits, may well be supplied by cheaper and more simple formulæ. They consist of solutions of different substances in rectified spirit, either pure or more or less diluted, proof spirit being employed in by far the greater number of instances. In the present Pharmacopœia they are all directed to be prepared at the common temperature of the atmosphere, and the usual time allowed for digesting the drug in the menstruum is fourteen days. At the end of that period the tinctures should be poured off, and pressed out of the residuary ingredients, and the whole filtered and put away for use. They are sometimes carelessly suffered to remain upon the dregs, portions being from time to time decanted off for use, so that at different times their strength varies; in respect to some of them, such want of uniformity may be productive of very serious consequences.

With few exceptions the tinctures are very permanent compounds, and in well-closed vessels have no tendency to change their appearance or activity: a few of them are liable to unimportant alterations, and several deposit a portion of their contents when subjected to temperatures lower considerably than those at which they were originally prepared. In their preservation, therefore, uniformity of temperature should not be overlooked, and hence a cellar is the properest place in which to keep them in store.

The Pharmacopœia gives no other general directions respecting them than the following:—

*Tincturæ omnes in vasis vitreis  
clausis præparari, et inter macerandum  
sæpiùs agitari, debent.*

All Tinctures should be prepared in  
closed glass vessels, and often shaken  
whilst macerating.

But where they are made upon a very large scale, vessels of stoneware, and, in some cases, of tinned copper, may be substituted for those of glass.



*Tinctura Aloës.*

R Aloës spicatæ Extracti contriti un-  
ciam dimidiā,  
Extracti Glycyrrhizæ unciam cum  
semisse,  
Aquæ octarium,  
Spiritus rectificati fluiduncias qua-  
tuor ;

Macera per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

*Tincture of Aloes.*

Take of Extract of spiked Aloe in  
powder, half an ounce,  
Extract of Liquorice, an  
ounce and a half,  
Water, a pint,  
Rectified Spirit, four fluid-  
ounces ;

Macerate for fourteen days, and  
strain.

In this tincture, as in the compound decoction, extract of liquorice is added to cover the nauseous bitterness of the aloes, and it certainly renders it much less unpleasant. It may be given in the dose of from two to eight drachms, in conjunction, if necessary, with other alvine stimulants, or with aromatics ; but in most cases, the compound decoction will be found a preferable substitute.

*Tinctura Aloës Composita. Compound Tincture of  
Aloes.*

R Aloës spicatæ Extracti contriti,  
  
Crocī Stigmatum, singulorum un-  
cias tres,  
Tincturæ Myrrhæ octarios duos ;  
Macera per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

Take of Extract of spiked Aloe in  
powder,  
Saffron, of each three ounces,  
  
Tincture of Myrrh, two pints ;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
strain.

This is a stronger, and at the same time a more nauseous, aloetic preparation than the former. It nearly corresponds in composition with the *elixir proprietatis* of old pharmacy : and the intention of maintaining the resemblance is probably the excuse for the retention of the large proportion of saffron, which was formerly considered efficacious. The old aloetic preparations, corresponding to the above, generally contained an acid as one of their ingredients. The prescription of Paracelsus contains sulphuric acid ; that of Boerhaave, vinegar.

Compound tincture of aloes, in the dose of one or two drachms, is sometimes a convenient form of the drug : as an emmenagogue, it may be conjoined with chalybeates, especially the tincture of muriate of iron ; and may be prescribed

in all those cases in which aloes is required, and which have been adverted to under the article "Aloes," in the *Materia Medica*.

*Tinctura Assafœtidæ.**Tincture of Assafœtida.*

R Assafœtidæ uncias quatuor,  
 Spiritûs rectificati octarios duos;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et  
 cola.

Take of Assafœtida, four ounces,  
 Rectified Spirit, two pints;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and  
 filter.

As an ingredient in prescriptions for anti-hysterical cases, tincture of assafœtida is occasionally ordered; it is, however, a very nauseous, though not inconvenient remedy. To the formulæ for the exhibition of assafœtida already given (page 43), the following may be added, as more condensed and portable than the above:

R Tincturæ Assafœtidæ,  
 ———— Gentianæ compos.  
 ———— Valerianæ,  
 Spiritûs Ammoniac Arom. aa f ʒss.  
 M. de qua sumatur cochleare unum minimum ex aquæ  
 cyatho.

*Tinctura Aurantii.**Tincture of Orange Peel.*

R Aurantii Corticis recentis uncias tres,  
 Spiritûs tenuioris octarios duos;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et  
 cola.

Take of fresh Orange Peel, three  
 ounces,  
 Proof Spirit, two pints;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.

When this tincture is prepared, as here directed, with fresh orange peel, care should be taken to exclude the white or mucilaginous part of the fruit; it is, however, generally made with the dried peel, two ounces of which are equivalent to three of the fresh, and the resulting tincture is equally agreeable. It is an excellent stomachic adjunct; and, as it is not rendered turbid by water, is frequently added to infusions and other aqueous solutions.



*Tinctura Benzoini Composita.*

R Benzoini uncias tres,  
 Styracis Balsami colati uncias duas,  
 Balsami Tolutani unciam,  
 Aloës spicatae Extracti unciam dimidiam,  
 Spiritûs rectificati octarios duos;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

*Compound Tincture of Benzoin.*

Take of Benzoin, three ounces,  
 Storax Balsam strained, two ounces,  
 Balsam of Tolu, an ounce,  
 Extract of spiked Aloe, half an ounce,  
 Rectified Spirit, two pints;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.

Under the name of *Friar's Balsam*, a compound of this kind has long enjoyed a degree of repute as an healing application to wounds and sores: as such, it is stimulant, and sometimes improves and corrects the secretions: as an internal remedy, it is scarcely ever prescribed. As genuine storax is scarcely to be procured, it would have been as well omitted.

*Tinctura Calumbæ.*

R Calumbæ concisæ uncias duas cum semisse,  
 Spiritûs tenuioris octarios duos;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

*Tincture of Calumba.*

Take of Calumba sliced, two ounces and a half,  
 Proof Spirit, two pints,  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.

This bitter tincture is a good stomachic stimulant in the dose of three or four drachms in a wine-glassful of water. As it is not blackened by solutions of iron, it is frequently prescribed in conjunction with them: it is difficultly filtered, and very apt to lose its transparency on keeping.

*Tinctura Camphoræ Composita.*

R Camphoræ scrupulos duos,  
 Opii duri contriti,  
 Acidi Benzoici, singulorum drachmam,  
 Spiritûs tenuioris octarios duos;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

*Compound Tincture of Camphor.*

Take of Camphor, two scruples,  
 Hard Opium, in powder,  
 Benzoic Acid, of each a drachm,  
 Proof Spirit, two pints;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.

The old and favourite *paregoric elixir* has degenerated, by the omission of a drachm of the oil of aniseed, into the above compound, which, in chronic asthma, and old obstinate coughs not rendered worse by slight stimulants, is an effective sedative, rather less than a grain of opium being contained in each half fluidounce. It is a common but not always harmless domestic remedy; a tea or dessert-spoonful being taken at night in warm gruel or barley-water. Much was formerly thought of the pectoral powers of aniseed, and its flavour is so marked, that the old formula is very generally followed, and the preparation sold under the original name. It is the "*tinctura opii camphorata*" of former Pharmacopœiæ—a name, it is said, thought improper from its resemblance to that of tincture of opium. Paregoric elixir is often found in the nursery, especially for the cure of whooping-cough, where its indiscriminate use cannot be too severely reprobated.

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*Tinctura Cantharidis.*      *Tincture of Spanish Flies.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| R Cantharidis contusæ drachmas tres,   | Take of Spanish Flies bruised, three drachms, |
| Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos ;     | Proof Spirit, two pints ;                     |
| Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola. | Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.       |

After having some time possessed the title of "*Tinctura Lyttæ*," this has now returned to its ancient appellation. The above tincture is chiefly employed as an external stimulant and rubefacient, and with that intention is mixed with soap and camphor liniments. Mr. Thomson recommends a rag moistened with it as a useful application "in that peculiar species of mortification of the extremities which sometimes happens without any apparent cause; and to frost-bitten parts." Diluted with water it has been used as an injection in the cure of sinuses and fistulous sores. Its internal use requires great caution; it is occasionally prescribed in the dose of from 10 to 30 drops twice a day in defective action of the *sphincter vesicæ*.

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*Tinctura Capsici.*

*Tincture of Capsicum.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| R Capsici Baccarum unciam,             | Take of Capsicum Berries, one ounce,    |
| Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos ;     | Proof Spirit, two pints ;               |
| Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola. | Macerate for fourteen days, and filter. |



The small capsicum berries should always be used in the preparation of this tincture, which furnishes a very convenient form of the remedy for gargles, and occasionally for internal administration. From ten drops to half a drachm may be prescribed as a dose; and from one to two drachms, with six ounces of barley-water, infusion of roses, or other proper vehicle, will generally afford a sufficiently stimulating gargle, especially of the recently prepared tincture; for it loses acrimony by age.

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*Tinctura Cardamomi.*

R Cardamomi Seminum contusorum  
uncias tres,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

*Tincture of Cardamom.*

Take of Cardamom Seeds bruised  
three ounces,  
Proof Spirit, two pints;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
filter.

A warm carminative tincture, properly added to aperients and bitters, with the view of rendering them comfortable to the stomach, in the usual dose of half a drachm or a drachm. A dessert-spoonful, in a little warm water, quiets the stomach after sea sickness.

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*Tinctura Cardamomi Composita.*

R Cardamomi Seminum,  
Carui Seminum,  
Cocci, singulorum contritorum  
drachmas duas,  
Cinnamomi Corticis contusi un-  
ciam dimidiam,  
Uvarum passarum, demptis acinis,  
uncias quatuor,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

*Compound Tincture of  
Cardamom.*

Take of Cardamom Seeds,  
Caraway Seeds,  
Cochineal, of each bruised,  
two drachms,  
Cinnamon Bark bruised, half  
an ounce,  
Raisins stoned, four ounces,  
Proof Spirit, two pints;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
filter.

The principal use of this tincture is as a colouring material, half a drachm or a drachm being conveniently added to colourless compounds; and where long perseverance in any course of medicine is necessary, it is often required to make some such slight change in its aspect. It is, however, also a

pleasant stomachic, and as such, the raisins give it an agreeable sweetness and flavour; but, for all its ordinary medicinal applications, the tincture is preferable without them.

*Tinctura Cascarillæ.*

R Cascarillæ Corticis contriti uncias  
quatuor,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

*Tincture of Cascarilla.*

Take of Cascarilla Bark in powder,  
four ounces,  
Proof Spirit, two pints;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
filter.

This is a needless tincture. The flavour and aroma of cascarilla are not such as to render it a desirable adjunct on those accounts; and the virtues of the drug are overcome by those of the spirit, so that it is by no means a desirable form.

*Tinctura Castorei.*

R Castorei contriti uncias duas,  
Spiritus rectificati octarios duos;  
Macerate per dies septem, et cola.

*Tincture of Castor.*

Take of Castor in powder, two ounces,  
Rectified Spirit, two pints;  
Macerate for seven days, and filter.

The reader is referred to page 66 for the properties and uses of the supposed active principle of this tincture. Notwithstanding the high encomiums formerly bestowed upon castor as a nervine restorative, confidence is now rarely placed in it; and if it finds its way into a prescription, it is rather on account of custom and ancient reputation, than for any services which it is expected to perform. It is usual to conjoin it with remedies of indisputable activity.

*Tinctura Catechu.*

R Catechu Extracti uncias tres,  
  
Cinnamomi Corticis contusi uncias  
duas,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

*Tincture of Catechu.*

Take of Extract of Catechu, three  
ounces,  
Cinnamon Bark bruised, two  
ounces,  
Proof Spirit, two pints;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
strain.

A very useful and unobjectionable astringent tincture, rendered more grateful, and, in many of its applications,



more effective, by the addition of cinnamon. In diarrhœa it is usually prescribed, as at page 80, with chalk mixture: in habitual laxity of the bowels, 1 or 2 drachms may be taken twice a day, with some bitter infusion, or in port wine, and it often proves a kindly-acting and tonic restorative.

### *Tinctura Cinchonæ.*

### *Tincture of Cinchona.*

R Cinchonæ lancifoliæ Corticis con-  
triti uncias septem,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

Take of lance-leaved Cinchona Bark in  
powder, seven ounces,  
Proof Spirit, two pints;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
filter.

The properties of cinchona, and its medicinal uses, have been so fully discussed under that head, in the *Materia Medica*, that no further remarks are here suggested, excepting that the above simple tincture, in consequence of the nature of the menstruum, is an inefficient preparation of bark, though a proper and useful addition to more active formulæ containing the same remedy. With this intention a drachm or two is prescribed with an ounce and a half of the decoction, or may be added to the formulæ at page 78.

### *Tinctura Cinchonæ Am- moniata.*

### *Ammoniated Tincture of Cinchona.*

R Cinchonæ lancifoliæ Corticis con-  
triti uncias quatuor,  
Spiritus Ammoniæ aromatici oc-  
tarios duos;  
Macerate per dies decem, et cola.

Take of lance-leaved Cinchona Bark  
in powder, four ounces,  
Aromatic Spirit of Ammo-  
nia, two pints;  
Macerate for ten days, and filter.

This was never either a plausible or useful formula, and the recent discoveries respecting the nature of the active principle of cinchona prove it objectionable; for the solvent is calculated to abstract everything except the cinchonia. Ammonia and bark are often properly conjoined; but in that case the alkali should be added to some of the other active preparations, and not employed as in the above tincture.

*Tinctura Cinchonæ Composita.*

℞ Cinchonæ lancifoliæ Corticis contriti uncias duas,  
 Aurantii Corticis exsiccati unciam cum semisse,  
 Serpentariæ Radicis contusæ drachmas tres,  
 Croci Stigmatum drachmam,  
 Cocci contriti scrupulos duos,  
 Spiritûs tenuioris fluiduncias viginti;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

*Compound Tincture of Cinchona.*

Take of lance-leaved Cinchona Bark in powder, two ounces,  
 Orange Peel dried, an ounce and a half,  
 Virginian Snake-root bruised, three drachms,  
 Saffron, a drachm,  
 Cochineal in powder, two scruples,  
 Proof Spirit, twenty fluid-ounces;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.

No preparation of bark has attained more celebrity than the above, under the title of “*Huxham’s Tincture of Bark* ;” it is a good stomachic, but a very inefficient preparation of cinchona, and is chiefly employed as a cordial addition to other formulæ, and as a source of colour, which it derives from the otherwise inactive saffron and cochineal.

*Tinctura Cinnamomi.*

℞ Cinnamomi Corticis contusi uncias tres,  
 Spiritûs tenuioris octarios duos;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

*Tincture of Cinnamon.*

Take of Cinnamon Bark bruised, three ounces,  
 Proof Spirit, two pints;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.

This warm, and, at the same time, astringent tincture, is a valuable adjunct to a variety of tonics and absorbents; it is also a good accompaniment to acids when prescribed in cases of atony of the stomach. It is not rendered turbid by the addition of dilute sulphuric acid, as in the following:

℞ Acidi Sulphurici diluti f ʒss.  
 Tincturæ Cinnamomi f ʒjss. M.  
 Sit dosis cochleare unum minimum bis die ex aquæ frigidæ cyatho.



*Tinctura Cinnamomi  
Composita.*

R Cinnamomi Corticis contusi drachmas sex,  
Cardamomi Semen contusorum drachmas tres,  
Piperis longi Fructus contriti,  
Zingiberis Radicis concisæ, singulorum drachmas duas,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

*Compound Tincture of  
Cinnamon.*

Take of Cinnamon Bark bruised, six drachms,  
Cardamom Seeds bruised, three drachms,  
Long Pepper, in powder,  
Ginger Root sliced, of each two drachms,  
Proof Spirit, two pints;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.

The cinnamon is but a secondary ingredient in this tincture, which is very rarely prescribed, and might have been rejected; for though it is a powerful and pleasant combination of spices, it is not wanted in practice. The once celebrated "*elixir vitrioli acidum*" consisted of three parts of the above tincture, and one part of sulphuric acid.

*Tinctura Digitalis.*

R Digitalis Foliorum exsiccatorum uncias quatuor,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

*Tincture of Foxglove.*

Take of Foxglove leaves dried, four ounces,  
Proof Spirit, two pints;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.

The precautions requisite in the preparation and exhibition of this important tincture, together with its dose and effects, have been detailed under the article "*Digitalis*," in the list of the *Materia Medica*. It should not be exhibited with substances likely to combine with or modify its active principle, which, according to M. Royer<sup>1</sup>, corresponds in its generic characters with the other vegetable salifiable bases. Tincture of digitalis is not rendered turbid by water, nor by the greater number of the simple infusions; and it may be given without impropriety in a saline draught, or with camphor or almond mixture; but the free acids should be avoided till the chemical characters of *digitalia* are better known.

<sup>1</sup> Quarterly Journal, vol. xviii. p. 178; and Bibliothèque Universelle, tome xxvi. p. 102.

*Tinctura Gentianæ Composita.*

℞ Gentianæ Radicis concisæ uncias duas,  
 Aurantii Corticis exsiccati unciam,  
 Cardamomi Seminum contusorum unciam dimidiam,  
 Spiritûs tenuioris octarios duos ;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

*Compound Tincture of Gentian.*

Take of Gentian Root sliced, two ounces,  
 Orange Peel dried, an ounce,  
 Cardamom Seeds bruised, half an ounce,  
 Proof Spirit, two pints ;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.

We have already had frequent opportunities of adverting to the uses of this tincture. It is a powerful, yet grateful bitter, and particularly well adapted as an adjunct to acids.

*Tinctura Guaiaci.*

℞ Guaiaci Gummi-resinæ contritæ libram dimidiam,  
 Spiritûs rectificati octarios duos ;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

*Tincture of Guaiacum.*

Take of Guaiacum Gum-resin, in powder, half a pound,  
 Rectified Spirit, two pints ;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.

This is not a useful form of guaiacum, for where it is admissible, the powder is generally to be preferred. Like the succeeding tincture, it is given in the dose of one or two drachms, rubbed down with mucilaginous substances, otherwise the resin separates in a curdy form.

*Tinctura Guaiaci Ammoniata.*

℞ Guaiaci Gummi-resinæ contritæ uncias quatuor,  
 Spiritûs Ammoniaci aromatici octarium cum semisse ;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

*Ammoniated Tincture of Guaiacum.*

Take of Guaiacum Gum-resin in powder, four ounces,  
 Aromatic Spirit of Ammonia, a pint and a half ;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.

In rheumatism, as in the formula at page 114, this tincture is frequently resorted to ; it is nauseous, and pleasant to few stomachs, but has certainly proved a useful form of guaiacum



in chronic rheumatic affections. The dose is from 1 to 2 drachms, properly blended with water by the aid of mucilage, honey, or yelk of egg, and conjoined with diaphoretics and a corresponding regimen. In such cases, it is frequently administered in conjunction with cinchona.

R Tincturæ Guaiaci Ammon. f ʒj.

Vitelli Ovi quantum sufficit,

Syrupi Zingiberis f ʒj.

Decocti Cinchonæ f ʒxiv.

Fiat haustus, ter vel quater in die sumendus.

### *Tinctura Hellebori Nigri.*

### *Tincture of Black Hellebore.*

R Hellebori nigri Radicis concisæ un-  
cias quatuor,

Spiritûs tenuioris octarios duos;

Macera per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

Take of Black Hellebore Root sliced  
(bruised), four ounces,

Proof Spirit, two pints;

Macerate for fourteen days, and  
filter.

An ineligible form of a drug which should be rejected from the *Materia Medica*. It is said to have been recommended by Dr. Mead, in uterine obstructions, as a powerful emmenagogue; a quality referrible to its drastic cathartic powers, which it often exerts very capriciously, and for which many less objectionable substitutes may be found. From 20 to 60 minims is a dose. It has also been prescribed in gout, a disease in which drastic purges, merely considered as such, and without reference to any other specific action of the remedy, are sometimes, though rarely, useful.

### *Tinctura Humuli.*

### *Tincture of Hops.*

R Humuli Strobilorum uncias quinque,  
Spiritûs tenuioris octarios duos;

Macera per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

Take of Hops, five ounces,

Proof Spirit, two pints;

Macerate for fourteen days, and  
filter.

A tincture of no use or efficacy, except as a mild bitter; but if such a preparation is to be retained in the *Pharmacopœia*, rectified, and not proof spirit, should be used for it, and the hops should be cut and bruised.

*Tinctura Hyoscyami.*

R Hyoscyami Foliorum exsiccatorum  
uncias quatuor,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos ;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

*Tincture of Henbane.*

Take of Henbane Leaves dried, four  
ounces,  
Proof Spirit, two pints ;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
filter.

Henbane, in this form, is not to be depended upon ; yet the tincture, carefully prepared from well-dried leaves, is by no means inactive as a sedative. One drachm may be administered at bedtime, in a saline draught : but a solution of an equivalent quantity of the extract is more certain.

*Tinctura Jalapæ.*

R Jalapæ Radicis contritæ uncias octo,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos ;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

*Tincture of Jalap.*

Take of Jalap Root in powder, eight  
ounces,  
Proof Spirit, two pints ;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
filter.

One or two drachms of this tincture, which contains all the active matter of jalap, are often added to purgative combinations, for the purpose of augmenting their energy ; the objection to the addition is, that it is apt to gripe.

*Tinctura Kino.*

R Kino contriti uncias tres,  
Spiritus rectificati octarios duos ;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

*Tincture of Kino.*

Take of Kino in powder, three ounces,  
Rectified Spirit, two pints ;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
strain.

Tincture of catechu may always be substituted for the above, which is, moreover, objectionable in consequence of the solution frequently gelatinising.

*Tinctura Myrrhæ.*

R Myrrhæ contusæ uncias quatuor,  
Spiritus rectificati octarios tres ;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

*Tincture of Myrrh.*

Take of Myrrh bruised, four ounces,  
Rectified Spirit, three pints ;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
strain.



The tinctures of myrrh formerly made with proof spirit were never clear : the above tincture is transparent, and contains the resinous and odorous part of the drug. It seldom forms an article of prescriptions for internal use, one of which, however, we have given above. It is principally employed in gargles and mouth-washes, and as a stimulating application to old ulcers.

### *Tinctura Opii.*

R Opii duri contriti uncias duas cum  
semisse,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

### *Tincture of Opium.*

Take of hard Opium in powder, two  
ounces and a half,  
Proof Spirit, two pints;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
filter.

Much that might be said of this important and almost indispensable tincture has already been anticipated under the head of "Opium." About two-thirds of the opium are dissolved in the above process; and 20 minims of the tincture contain about 1 grain of solid matter. The whole of the morphia of the above quantity of opium is not extracted in the process, for it is found in no inconsiderable proportion in the matter which remains upon the filter.

This tincture is an extremely convenient preparation of opium, either where a large dose is required, in its most active state, or where it is necessary to administer it in very small and divided portions. It may be given in almost any vehicle, but it is as well to avoid combining it directly with the alkalies and their carbonates, and with the greater number of metallic salts, by which the morphia is either precipitated or enters into new combinations. The acids, as usually employed in medicine, are perfectly compatible with it; and tinctures of opium prepared with vegetable acids have sometimes been preferred to other formulæ. Among these, the acetic tincture of opium, and acetate and muriate of morphia, have been supposed to act as sedatives less stimulant than opium itself; and the celebrated *black drop* is probably a compound of this kind<sup>1</sup>. These modifications of opium, however, sometimes lead to uncertainties in practice.

Tincture of opium is often used as an external anodyne application.

<sup>1</sup> See Dr. Paris's Pharmacologia, article *Opium*, and page 161 above.

*Tinctura Rhei.*

R Rhei Radicis concisæ uncias duas,  
 Cardamomi Seminum contusorum  
 unciam dimidiam,  
 Croci Stigmatum drachmas duas,  
 Spiritûs tenuioris octarios duos;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et  
 cola.

*Tincture of Rhubarb.*

Take of Rhubarb Root sliced, two  
 ounces,  
 Cardamom Seeds bruised,  
 half an ounce,  
 Saffron, two drachms,  
 Proof Spirit, two pints;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and  
 filter.

The cardamom seeds are a warm and proper accompaniment to the rhubarb, but the saffron is in every way useless. In doses of one or two drachms, the above tincture is a good stomachic, conjoined with bitters and aromatics; and half an ounce, in an ounce of peppermint-water, is a warm but gentle aperient, useful in flatulency with a tendency to diarrhœa.—(See *Rhei Radix*, in the list of the *Materia Medica*.)

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*Tinctura Rhei Composita. Compound Tincture of Rhubarb.*

R Rhei Radicis concisæ uncias duas,  
 Glycyrrhizæ Radicis contusæ un-  
 ciam dimidiam,  
 Zingiberis Radicis concisæ,  
 Croci Stigmatum, singulorum  
 drachmas duas,  
 Spiritûs tenuioris octarium,  
 Aquæ fluiduncias duodecim;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et  
 cola.

Take of Rhubarb Root sliced, two  
 ounces,  
 Liquorice Root, bruised, half  
 an ounce,  
 Ginger Root sliced,  
 Saffron, of each two drachms,  
 Proof Spirit, a pint,  
 Water, twelve fluidounces;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and  
 filter.

One or other of these tinctures of rhubarb should have been omitted, though the weakness of the above may sometimes recommend it. Perhaps *Bates's Tincture of Rhubarb* might have been substituted, aniseed being grateful to some palates, and effectually covering the nauseous flavour of the rhubarb: it is prepared as follows:—

R Radicis Rhei concis.  
 — Glycyrrhizæ concis. āā ʒij.  
 Seminum Anisi contus.  
 Sacchari purif. āā ʒj.  
 Spiritûs tenuioris octarios ij.  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola.



*Tinctura Scillæ.*

℞ Scillæ Radicis recens exsiccatae un-  
cias quatuor,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos ;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

*Tincture of Squills.*

Take of Squill Root recently dried,  
four ounces,  
Proof Spirit, two pints ;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
filter.

The uses and dose of this tincture have been already mentioned (page 194) : about thirty minims are equivalent to a grain of squills. Conjoined with demulcents, it is a good remedy in troublesome tickling coughs, where there is no decided inflammatory tendency, as in this formula :—

℞ Misturæ Amygdalæ fʒjss.

Potassa Nitratis gr. v.

Syrupi Papaveris fʒj.

Tincturæ Scillæ ℥xx.

Fiat haustus horâ decubitûs sumendus, et repetetur bis die  
sine syrupo papaveris.

An obstinate hoarseness of long duration sometimes yields to 30 drops of tincture of squills, taken night and morning, in a wine-glassful of water.

*Tinctura Sennæ.*

℞ Sennæ Foliorum uncias tres,  
Carui Semen contusorum .....  
drachmas tres,  
Cardamomi Semen contusorum  
drachmam,  
Uvarum passarum, demptis acinis,  
uncias quatuor,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarios duos ;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

*Tincture of Senna.*

Take of Senna Leaves, three ounces,  
Caraway Seeds bruised, three  
drachmas,  
Cardamom Seeds bruised, a  
drachm,  
Raisins stoned, four ounces,  
Proof Spirit, two pints ;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
strain.

Liquorice is a good substitute for the raisins in this formula. The principal use of the tincture is as an adjunct to purging remedies, in the dose of a drachm or two. Half an ounce or an ounce of it with peppermint or mint water, is a good warm purge for gouty habits. Like the infusion, and other forms of senna, it is apt to nauseate considerably immediately previous to the commencement of its action upon the bowels. Senna is said to be the active ingredient in Daffy's

elixir, but there is reason to suspect opium in some of the nostrums sold under that name. *Gout cordial* is a mixture of the compound tinctures of rhubarb and of senna.

*Tinctura Serpentariæ.**Tincture of Virginian Snake-root.*

R *Serpentariæ Radicis* uncias tres,

*Spiritus tenuioris* octarios duos ;

Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

Take of Virginian Snake-root, three ounces,

Proof Spirit two pints ;

Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.

The character of the base of this tincture is given in the *Materia Medica*. The tincture itself is nearly useless. It may be given in the dose of one or two drachms, with an ounce and a half of decoction of bark.

*Tinctura Valerianæ.**Tincture of Valerian.*

R *Valerianæ Radicis* uncias quatuor,  
*Spiritus tenuioris* octarios duos ;

Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

Take of Valerian Root, four ounces,  
Proof Spirit, two pints ;

Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.

This, if not a very effective form of valerian, is at least useful in communicating its odour, as an anti-hysterical and nervine remedy. A drachm of it is added, with this intention, to the usual anti-nervous formulæ, and these are rendered perfect by the further addition of twenty drops of tincture of assafoetida. It is not an improper addition to decoction of bark, when given in nervous habits of body.

*Tinctura Valerianæ Ammoniatæ.**Ammoniated Tincture of Valerian.*

R *Valerianæ Radicis* uncias quatuor,  
*Spiritus Ammoniac aromatici* octarios duos ;

Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

Take of Valerian Root, four ounces,  
Aromatic Spirit of Ammonia, two pints ;

Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.



This is a stronger tincture than the preceding, more of the active matter of the root being dissolved by the aromatic spirit of ammonia, than by the proof spirit: the dose is the same. It is generally given with camphor mixture, æthereals, or weak decoction or infusion of valerian, as in the formula at page 226.

### *Tinctura Zingiberis.*

R Zingiberis Radicis concisæ uncias  
duas,  
Spiritus rectificati octarios duos;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

### *Tincture of Ginger.*

Take of Ginger Root sliced, two  
ounces,  
Rectified Spirit, two pints;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
filter.

The abundance of mucilaginous matter in ginger rendered the tinctures made with proof spirit turbid; rectified spirit is now properly substituted, which, without acting upon the mucilage, takes up the whole of the acrimony and flavour of the root, and furnishes an elegant and useful stomachic tincture applicable as an adjunct or corrigent to griping purgatives, and pleasant to debilitated and flatulent habits. The dose is from half a drachm to two drachms, but it would have been a more useful tincture if double the above quantity of ginger had been used.

## PREPARATIONS OF ÆTHER.

When equal weights of alcohol and sulphuric acid are carefully mixed and subjected to distillation, as afterwards described, a portion of the alcohol is converted into an extremely light fragrant fluid, termed *sulphuric æther*, which in its utmost state of purity has the following properties. It is transparent and colourless, of a very pungent taste, highly intoxicating, and so volatile, that, when poured from one vessel into another, a considerable portion evaporates: when dropped upon surfaces, it produces intense cold as it passes into vapour; and when thus suffered to trickle over the bulb of a thermometer, the mercury soon falls below the freezing point of water. It is said to have been procured of a specific gravity as low as .632: I have never obtained it lower than .700, and that which is met with in the shops is rarely less than .730, and often more than .740. It freezes at  $-46$ . At mean temperature and pres-

sure, and of the specific gravity  $\cdot 730$ , it boils at  $98^{\circ}$ , and is converted into highly inflammable vapour, the specific gravity of which, compared with that of air, is as  $2\cdot 586$  to  $1\cdot 000$ . It dissolves the resins, fixed and volatile oils, sulphur, phosphorus, and ammonia, but it does not dissolve either potassa or soda, or their carbonates. One part of æther requires about ten of water for its solution: it dissolves in alcohol in all proportions. Its vapour is so inflammable, that the utmost caution is requisite in approaching it with a lighted candle. When burnt, it yields the same products as alcohol, but in different proportions. The results of its combustion have been minutely examined by several chemists of eminence, especially by Saussure, whose analysis of alcohol has already been quoted, and by Dr. Ure: they have given its ultimate elements as follows:—

|                |               |       |          |
|----------------|---------------|-------|----------|
| Carbon.....    | 67·98         | ..... | 60·00    |
| Oxygen .....   | 17·62         | ..... | 26·66    |
| Hydrogen ..... | 14·40         | ..... | 13·34    |
|                | <hr/>         |       | <hr/>    |
|                | 100           |       | 100      |
|                | — (Saussure.) |       | — (Ure.) |

Saussure's æther was of the specific gravity of  $\cdot 715$  at  $68^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit, and that employed by Dr. Ure only  $\cdot 700$ .

On comparing these analytical results, especially Dr. Ure's, with the theory of volumes, as adopted by Gay Lussac, they will be found nearly to agree with the supposition that æther is constituted of two volumes of carburetted hydrogen, and one volume of aqueous vapour, the *three* volumes being condensed into *one* by combination; for, assuming the specific gravity of carburetted hydrogen as  $\cdot 978$ , and that of aqueous vapour as  $\cdot 625$  (atmospheric air being =  $1\cdot 000$ ), we find that

$$\begin{array}{l} 2 \text{ volumes of Carburetted Hydrogen} \dots\dots\dots \cdot 978 \times 2 = 1\cdot 956 \\ 1 \text{ ————— Vapour of Water} \dots\dots\dots = 0\cdot 625 \end{array}$$

$$\text{Condensed into one volume of Vapour of } \text{Æther} = 2\cdot 581$$

and the specific gravity of the vapour of æther, as determined by experiment, is =  $2\cdot 586$ .

*Two volumes* of carburetted hydrogen, and *one volume* of the vapour of water, are equivalent, *by weight*, to

$$\begin{array}{l} 2 \text{ proportionals of Carburetted Hydrogen} \dots\dots\dots 14 \times 2 = 28 \\ 1 \text{ ————— Water} \dots\dots\dots = 9 \\ \hline 37 \end{array}$$

and upon this view of the subject, the theoretical composition of æther may be stated as follows:—



|   |   |                   |
|---|---|-------------------|
| 4 | proportionals of Carbon .....   | $6 \times 4 = 24$ |
| 1 | ————— Oxygen (in the Water) .....   | $= 8$             |
| 5 | ————— Hydrogen (4 in the Carburetted Hydro-<br>gen and 1 in the Water)..... | $\} = 5$          |
|   |   | <hr/> 37          |

or per cent. as compared with Dr. Ure's experimental result—

|                |            |               |
|----------------|------------|---------------|
| Carbon.....    | 64.9 ..... | 60.00         |
| Oxygen .....   | 21.6 ..... | 26.66         |
| Hydrogen ..... | 13.5 ..... | 13.34         |
|                |            | <hr/> 100     |
|                |            | (Theory.)     |
|                |            | <hr/> 100     |
|                |            | (Experiment.) |

It appears, therefore, that the action of the sulphuric acid upon alcohol, by which the latter is converted into æther, consists essentially in the abstraction of one-half of its elementary water, for the vapour of alcohol consists of *equal volumes* of carburetted hydrogen and aqueous vapour, condensed into one-half their united bulk; or of *one* proportional of carburetted hydrogen  $= 14$ , and *one* of water  $= 9$ ; whereas the vapour of æther is composed of *two volumes* of the former and *one* of the latter, condensed into one volume; or *two* proportionals of carburetted hydrogen ( $14 \times 2$ )  $= 28$ , and *one* of water  $= 9$ , as shown in the following comparative diagrams:—

23 parts of Alcohol (by weight)  
consist of

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 proportional<br>of Carburetted<br>Hydrogen<br>$= 14.$ | 1 proportional<br>of Aqueous Va-<br>pour $= 9.$ |
|---|---|

$$14 + 9 = 23.$$

37 parts of Æther (by weight)  
consist of

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 2 proportionals<br>of Carburetted<br>Hydrogen, | 1 proportional<br>of Aqueous Va-<br>pour $= 9.$ |
| $14 \times 2 = 28.$                            |   |

$$28 + 9 = 37.$$

Resulting vo-  
lume of the Va-  
pour of Alcohol.

Resulting vo-  
lume of the Va-  
pour of Æther.

*Æther Sulphuricus.*

R Spiritus rectificati,

Acidi sulphurici, singulorum *pondere* libram cum semisse;

Spiritum retortæ vitreæ infunde, eique Acidum paulatim adice, sæpius agitans, et cavens ne gradum 120<sup>mum</sup> calor excedat, donec misceantur. Dein in arenam, ad gradum 200<sup>mum</sup> prius calefactam, cautè impone, ut quàm celerimè ebulliat liquor, transeatque Æther in receptaculum tubulatum, cui aptatum sit vas recipiens glacie vel aquâ refrigeratum. Destillet liquor, donec pars aliqua gravior transire incipiat, quæ sub Æthere in fundo receptaculi conspiciatur. Liquori qui restat in retorta rursus Spiritus rectificati uncias duodecim affunde, ut simili modo destillet Æther.

*Æther Rectificatus.*

R Ætheris sulphurici fluiduncias quatuordecim,

Potassæ fusæ unciam dimidiam,

Aquæ destillatæ fluiduncias undecim;

Potassam in Aquæ fluidunciis duabus primùm liqua, eique Ætherem adice, assiduè agitans, donec misceantur; tum, calore gradûs circiter 120<sup>mi</sup>, ex retorta ampla destillent in vas refrigeratum Ætheris fluidunciæ duodecim; destillatum cum Aquæ fluidunciis novem simul agita, et sepone ut subsidat Aqua. Denique Ætherem rectificatum supernatantem effunde, et vase bene obturato serva.

*Sulphuric Æther.*

Take of Rectified Spirit,

Sulphuric Acid, of each, *by weight*, a pound and a half;

Pour the Spirit into a glass retort, and gradually add the Acid to it, shaking them frequently, and taking care that the temperature does not exceed 120°, till they are mixed. Then place the retort very cautiously in sand, previously heated to 200°, that the liquor may boil as soon as possible, and the Æther pass over into a tubulated receiver, to which a recipient is adapted, kept cold by ice or water. Let the liquor distil until another heavier part begins to pass over, which may be seen under the Æther at the bottom of the receiver. To the liquor which remains in the retort again add twelve ounces of rectified Spirit, that Æther may again be distilled as before.

*Rectified Æther.*

Take of Sulphuric Æther, fourteen fluidounces,

Fused Potassa, half an ounce,

Distilled Water, eleven fluidounces;

First dissolve the Potassa in two fluidounces of the Water, and add the Æther, shaking them thoroughly until they are mixed; then, at a temperature of about 120°, let twelve fluidounces of Æther distil over from a large retort into a cooled vessel; then shake the distilled fluid with nine fluidounces of Water, and set it by, that the Water may subside. Lastly, pour off the supernatant rectified Æther, and keep it in a well-stopped vessel.

The above formulæ are very inconveniently and unnecessarily separated in the Pharmacopœia, so that the apothecary is obliged to keep both "sulphuric æther," and "rectified æther," the former being a sulphurous mixture of æther, alcohol, and water, probably never intended to be prescribed, and certainly quite unfit for medicinal use; but, in chemical language, sulphuric æther and rectified æther are synonymous,



and if the physician prescribes the former instead of the latter, a mistake which frequently happens, it is probable that the patient may get the heterogeneous compound just adverted to, instead of the pure æther which was intended.

With a view of preventing repetition, we have already traced out the theory of ætherification, and described the leading properties of the product in its pure state. The process of its distillation, though conveniently performed upon a small scale, in a glass retort, is usually conducted in a still with a worm-pipe and refrigeratory upon the usual construction, where large quantities of the product are required. If great care be taken to stop the process at a proper period, a copper still may be used, but one of lead is preferable; and as considerable risk is incurred by fire, high-pressure steam is not only very conveniently, but often very economically applied as the source of the required heat.

If we attempt to distil æther by steam at the temperature of  $212^{\circ}$ , or even  $220^{\circ}$ , very little else than alcohol passes over. A temperature of from  $250^{\circ}$  to  $280^{\circ}$  is required for the purpose, so that the pressure under which the steam is generated must at least amount to that of one additional atmosphere.

In the apparatus employed for this purpose at Apothecaries' Hall, the still is of cast-iron, lined with lead; the steam is conducted through the mixture of acid and alcohol by a contorted leaden pipe at the bottom of the still, and is supplied by a boiler calculated to resist a pressure of 100 lbs. on the square inch: in this way the mixture is very rapidly raised to its boiling point, a larger relative quantity of æther is obtained than when an open fire is used, and all risk incurred by the latter is effectually avoided, the boiler being in a distinct apartment. The condensing apparatus and refrigeratory are of the usual construction, but abundantly supplied with cold water.

In the above process a portion of alcohol first passes over; to this succeeds æther; then water makes its appearance, and the odour of sulphurous acid is evident, at which time the ingredients of the retort blacken, and have a tendency to boil over. The "heavier fluid," mentioned in the formula, is the aqueous solution of sulphurous acid, and as soon as it appears, the process should be stopped, either by removing the receiver and withdrawing the fire; or, more conveniently and immediately, by turning off the steam. In repeating the process with the addition of fresh alcohol, a second production of æther ensues, but a much larger relative quantity of unaltered alcohol passes over than in the first operation.

Mr. Phillips<sup>1</sup> states that in preparing *æther sulphuricus*, he

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<sup>1</sup> Trans. Pharm. p. 224.

obtained from the proportions directed in the Pharmacopœia 12 fluidounces of product, of which 6 drachms were the *heavier fluid* mentioned, and  $11\frac{1}{4}$  fluidounces *æther sulphuricus* of the specific gravity 0.768. On adding the second portion of spirit, the quantity of product was nearly similar, but its specific gravity was 0.807, showing that the power of the acid to produce æther was much diminished by the first operation. Conducting the process upon a large scale at Apothecaries' Hall, the results are somewhat different. 100 lbs. of sulphuric acid and 100 lbs. of alcohol afford about 52 lbs. of æther, of the specific gravity .761. 50 lbs. of rectified spirit are then added to the residue in the still, and upon the second distillation from 46 to 50 lbs. of product are drawn over, of the specific gravity .765. About 100 lbs. of impure æther are thus obtained, which, by purification, afford from 55 to 58 lbs. of *rectified æther* of the specific gravity .733, which is as low as it is usually sold for pharmaceutical purposes; though it is somewhat remarkable that the Pharmacopœia contains no directions respecting its specific gravity.

The theory of the changes which the alcohol suffers in the process of ætherification is various and complicated, and has been traced out with much ability by Mr. Hennel<sup>1</sup>, to whose papers, and to the abstract which I have given of them in the second volume of my "Manual of Chemistry," I must refer the chemical reader. A portion of the sulphuric acid combines with the hydrocarbon of the alcohol, and forms a peculiar compound called *sulphovinic acid*, which, during the process of ætherification, imparts hydrocarbon to the elements of water to form æther, and returns to the state of sulphuric acid.

The purification of æther is very well effected by following the directions above given, but they are not those generally adopted, the common method being to add subcarbonate of potassa to the impure æther, and subject the mixture to distillation, as long as æther of a sufficiently low specific gravity passes over. Perfectly pure æther is not desirable for medicinal uses.

Considered in relation to its medicinal uses, sulphuric æther is a very powerful and diffusible, but at the same time a transient stimulus, acting upon the brain nearly in the same way as alcohol, and therefore, to a certain extent, narcotic. In many instances it also proves decidedly antispasmodic; it is, however, not very frequently administered, except in combination with alcohol, as in the spirit, and compound spirit of æther, afterwards to be mentioned.

A teaspoonful or more of undiluted æther has been suc-

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<sup>1</sup> Phil. Trans., 1826 and 1828.



cessfully given in the cure of intermittent fever, immediately previous to the accession of the cold fit : it occasions a powerful shock to the system, momentarily taking away the breath, and giving great anxiety and uneasiness for a few seconds ; but the febrile paroxysm is not unfrequently checked in its progress, and the disease has sometimes altogether disappeared ; the practice, however, is by no means commendable. Hysterical fits, and even epilepsy, are said to have been successfully treated in the same way. In nervous fever particular symptoms are often relieved by æther, and in a variety of spasmodic diseases it is advantageously employed, especially in cramp and tetanic affections, and in the paroxysm of spasmodic asthma ; in the latter case, and in catarrhal dyspnœa, the inhalation of the vapour of æther has been recommended ; but the practice is not always safe, especially where determination of blood to the head is to be apprehended.

The usual dose of æther is from twenty minims to two fluidrachms, and it is usually prescribed in conjunction with other antispasmodics, especially camphor. The following is a very effectual form, applicable in any case of violent spasm : as the effect of æther is but transient, the dose should be repeated every hour, or every two or three hours, according to the effect produced, and to the severity of the symptoms.

R Ætheris Rectificati f ʒss.

Misturæ Camphoræ fort. f ʒvij.

Syrupi Croci f ʒss.

Fiat mistura, cujus sit dosis cochlearia tria ampla:

In the disease commonly called nervous headach, untended by vascular fulness and allied to general debility of the nervous system, the following has proved effective :—

R Ætheris Rectificati,

Liquoris Ammoniæ, aa f ʒss.

Misturæ Camphoræ f ʒx.

Tinct. Cardam. comp. f ʒj.

Misce pro haustu bis vel ter die sumendo.

A small tea-spoonful of æther in a glass of white wine is often a most effectual remedy in allaying the most distressing symptoms of sea-sickness and in restoring the tone of the stomach after it.

Æther is applied externally as a refrigerant and stimulant ; it produces the former effects by the facility and rapidity with which it evaporates. A little poured into the hand and held near the eye stimulates that organ, and is supposed to be useful in incipient corneal opacity. In all these applications of æther, great care should be taken to avoid the proximity of fire.

*Oleum Æthereum.*

Post distillationem Ætheris sulphurici, lenito calore, destillet iterum liquor, donec spuma nigra intumescat; tum protinus ab igne retortam remove. Liquori qui restat in retorta Aquam adjice, ut supernatet pars oleosa. Hanc aufer, eique admisce Liquoris Calcis quantum satis sit, ad acidum, quod inest, saturandum, et simul agita. Denique Oleum æthereum separatum exime.

*Æthereal Oil.*

After the distillation of sulphuric Æther, having lowered the heat, again distil the liquor till a black froth swells up; then instantly remove the retort from the fire. Add Water to the liquor remaining in the retort, so that the oily part may float upon the surface. Remove this, and add to it a sufficient quantity of lime-water to saturate the acid which it contains, and shake them together. Lastly, remove the separated æthereal oil.

In this way a very small portion of very impure æthereal oil is obtained. It may be obtained in larger quantities by distilling one part of alcohol, by measure, with one of sulphuric acid, and comes over, sometimes in some quantity, in the usual process of making carburetted hydrogen or olefiant gas. It is best purified by washing it with weak solution of subcarbonate of potassa. Its specific gravity is 1.060; it is insoluble in water, but soluble in alcohol and æther; it has a fragrant odour, and an aromatic, bitterish, and pungent flavour.

The chemical nature of oil of wine has been very satisfactorily demonstrated by Mr. Hennel, in the papers above quoted. As a medicine it is unimportant.

*Spiritus Ætheris Aromaticus.*

R Cinnamomi Corticis contusi . . . .  
drachmas tres,  
Cardamomi Seminum contritorum  
drachmam cum semisse,  
Piperis longi Fructus contriti,  
Zingiberis Radicis concisæ, singu-  
lorum drachmam,  
Spiritus Ætheris sulphurici octa-  
rium;

Macera per dies quatuordecim, in  
vase vitreo obturato, et cola.

*Aromatic Spirit of Æther.*

Take of Cinnamon Bark bruised, three  
drachms,  
Cardamom Seeds in powder, a  
drachm and a half,  
Long Pepper in powder,  
Ginger Root sliced, of each a  
drachm,  
Spirit of Sulphuric Æther, a  
pint;

Macerate for fourteen days in a  
well-stopped glass vessel, and filter.

Medicated æther and æthereal tinctures were formerly in high estimation, but they have properly fallen into disuse, as



æther seldom requires aromatic adjuncts; their virtues too, derived from the aromatics, are annihilated by those of the æther. The above æthereal aromatic tincture therefore is rarely if ever prescribed, and though a grateful it is not a useful stimulant.

### *Spiritus Ætheris Nitrici.*

R Spiritûs rectificati octarios duos,  
Acidi nitrici *pondere* uncias tres;

Spiritui Acidum paulatim adjice,  
et misce, cavens ne gradum 120<sup>mm</sup>  
calor excedat; tum, leni calore, destil-  
lent fluiduncie viginti quatuor.

### *Spirit of Nitric Æther.*

Take of Rectified Spirit, two pints,  
Nitric Acid, *by weight*, three  
ounces.

Add the Acid to the Spirit by slow  
degrees, and mix, taking care that the  
temperature does not exceed 120°;  
then, by a gentle heat, distil twenty-  
four fluidounces.

When equal parts of nitric acid and alcohol are mixed together at a temperature of 80°, a dangerously violent action ensues, and nearly the whole mixture is converted into gas and vapour, which, if made to pass through brine cooled down to 32°, is partly condensed into a yellowish liquid extremely volatile and equal in weight to about half the alcohol employed; it floats upon the cold salt and water, and is *nitric æther* nearly pure. Its specific gravity exceeds that of alcohol, but is less than that of water; it is almost always slightly acid, and becomes very acid and loses its æthereal characters when kept. Its taste is sweetish-bitter and very pungent; it dissolves very sparingly in water, but copiously in alcohol; the latter solution corresponds to the above *spiritus ætheris nitrici*. It consists, according to Thenard, of—

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Carbon .....   | 28.45 |
| Oxygen .....   | 48.52 |
| Hydrogen ..... | 8.54  |
| Nitrogen ..... | 14.49 |

100

According to Dumas and Boullay, (Ann. de Chim. et Phys. xxxvij. 26), nitric æther consists of—

|                              |              |        |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| 4 equivalents of carbon .... | (6 × 4) = 24 | } = 75 |
| 5 ..... hydrogen .....       | 5            |        |
| 4 ..... oxygen ....          | (8 × 4) = 32 |        |
| 1 ..... nitrogen .....       | 14           |        |

Or, of

|  |    |        |
|--|----|--------|
| 2 equivalents of olefiant gas (14 × 2) = | 28 | } = 75 |
| 1 ————— water .....                      | 9  |        |
| 1 ————— hyponitrous acid .....           | 38 |        |

The spirit of nitric æther should be slowly distilled at a low temperature (about  $180^{\circ}$ ), and not more drawn over than the formula directs. It may be conveniently distilled in a glass retort; at Apothecaries' Hall a still is kept for the purpose, entirely composed of earthenware, with a condensing worm-pipe of the same material. The still is heated by the slow application of steam to its outer surface.

This preparation has a peculiar but grateful odour; its taste, when recently prepared, is very pungent, and slightly sweet and bitter, but when kept a few weeks it acquires a manifest acidity. It readily dissolves in water and in alcohol. When tincture of guaiacum is dropped into it, a fine and very peculiar blue tint is produced, which soon passes into various shades of green, but the mixture remains transparent: when water is added, a blue or green precipitate falls, which eventually becomes brown.

Spirit of nitric æther, or *sweet spirit of nitre* as it was formerly called, is used in medicine as a diuretic and antispasmodic; conjoined with proper regimen, it also proves diaphoretic. From half a drachm to a drachm is the usual dose, and is often given in low febrile affections, with saline remedies.

R Spiritus Ætheris Nitrici f ʒiij.  
Liquoris Ammoniae Acetatis f ʒj.  
Misturæ Camphoræ f ʒivss.  
Syrupi Croci f ʒij.

Fiat mistura, cujus capiat cochlearia tria ampla subinde.

As a diuretic in dropsical affections, it is conjoined with other diuretics, such as acetate of potassa, nitre, squills, digitalis, &c.

R Infusi Armoraciae compos. f ʒiss.  
Spiritus Ætheris Nitrici,  
Syrupi Zingiberis, aa f ʒj.  
Tincturæ Scillæ ℥xx.  
Fiat haustus ter die sumendus.

R Potassæ Acetatis ʒss.  
Misturæ Camphoræ,  
Infusi Quassiae, aa f ʒvj.  
Syrupi Rhæados  
Spir. Æther Nitr. aa f ʒj.  
Tincturæ Digitalis ℥vj.  
Fiat haustus ter in die sumendus.

The following often allays the troublesome tickling sensation in the throat which attends a common catarrh, but the mixture is very apt to ferment.



℞ Oxy mellis f ʒj.  
 Syrupi Papaveris,  
 Spiritus Ætheris Nitric. aa f ʒss.  
 Fiat linctus cujus sumatur pauxillum subinde.

*Spiritus Ætheris Sulphurici.*

*Spirit of Sulphuric Æther.*

℞ Ætheris rectificati octarium dimidium,  
 Spiritus rectificati octarium;  
 Misce.

Take of sulphuric Æther, half a pint,  
 Rectified Spirit, a pint;  
 Mix.

This is the usual form in which æther is administered; half a drachm to a drachm and a half is the medium dose. In faintness, low spirits, and generally as a nervine stimulant, it is prescribed as in the following nervous mixture; compound spirit of lavender and syrup of red poppies being occasionally substituted for the compound spirit of ammonia and syrup of saffron, and pennyroyal-water for the camphor mixture.

℞ Misturæ Camphoræ f ʒvij.  
 Spiritus Ætheris Sulphurici,  
 ——— Ammoniac compos. aa f ʒij.  
 Syrupi Croci f ʒss.

Fiat mistura nervina, de qua sumantur cochlearia tria vel quatuor magna, urgente agitatione.

*Spiritus Ætheris Sulphurici Compositus.*

*Compound Spirit of Sulphuric Æther.*

℞ Spiritus Ætheris sulphurici octarium,  
 Olei Ætherei fluidrachmas duas;  
 Misce.

Take of Spirit of sulphuric Æther, a pint,  
 Æthereal Oil, two fluidrachms;  
 Mix.

This preparation is intended as a substitute for *Hoffman's anodyne liquor*, which it closely resembles. It is given in the same doses as the preceding, and with the same effect, the æthereal oil merely altering its flavour a little. It may be dispensed with.

## WINES.

Vinous tinctures are of very ancient date in pharmacy, and now for the first time expunged from the London Pharmacopœia, though the term *vinum* is retained and applied to certain compounds prepared with considerably diluted spirit. We have already noticed this innovation, when speaking of the “*Vinum Antimonii Tartarizati*” and of the “*Vinum Ferri*,” in which there is a similar substitution of spirit and water for wine: of the remaining wines, that of *ipecacuanha* only is important, and as these three are continually employed in domestic medicine, the apothecary is obliged to keep them prepared according to the old as well as the new formulæ; the former for mothers and nurses, and the latter for physicians; and yet, though very dissimilar compounds, they necessarily go under the same name, which often leads to confusion and inconvenience, and sometimes to alarm.

Wine is certainly an objectionable menstruum in consequence of the spontaneous changes to which it is subject; yet, less inconvenience would have resulted in retaining the old “wines” than in suffering the present preparations, containing no wine, to usurp their titles. Moreover, the very dilute spirit now prescribed, often forms with the dissolved matters compounds which become turbid and are subject to nearly the same changes as was formerly the case when wine was used.

There is another objection to this innovation pointed out by Mr. Phillips<sup>1</sup>, which is, that, instead of using wine of nearly uniform strength, dilute spirit of very different qualities is employed. Thus the *vinum antimonii tartarizati*, the *vinum ferri*, and the *vinum veratri*, contain two parts of proof spirit and three of water: *vinum aloës* contains equal parts of proof spirit and water; *vinum colchici* contains one part of proof spirit and two of water; and *vinum ipecacuanhæ* and *vinum opii* contain one part of proof spirit and one and two-thirds of water.

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<sup>1</sup> Trans. Pharm. p. 228.



*Vinum Aloës.*

R Aloës spicatæ Extracti uncias octo,

Canellæ Corticis uncias duas,

Spiritûs tenuioris,

Aquæ destillatæ, singulorum octarios quatuor;

Aloën cum arena alba, sordibus purgata, in pulverem tere; Canellæ Corticem etiam in pulverem tere; hisque, inter se mistis, Spiritum et Aquam affunde. Macera per dies quatuordecim, subindè movens, et cola.

*Wine of Aloes.*

Take of Extract of spiked Aloe, eight ounces,

Canella Bark, two ounces,

Proof Spirit,

Distilled Water, of each four pints;

Rub the Aloes into powder with clean white sand; rub the Canella Bark also into powder, and, upon these mixed together, pour the Spirit and Water. Macerate for fourteen days, stirring occasionally, and strain.

A decoction and two tinctures are already among the liquid aloetic preparations, and the above is a very unnecessary addition. In the London Dispensatory<sup>1</sup>, Mr. Thomson has given a formula for an aloetic wine, which deserves to be more generally known and used; he justly recommends it "in dyspepsia and chlorosis, and also in that affection of the mesenteric glands in children which produces a tumid and tense abdomen." It is composed as follows, and given in the dose of from one fluidrachm to half a fluidounce:—

R Sodæ Subcarbonatis ℥ij.

Ammoniæ Subcarbonatis ℥ivss.

Myrrhæ contritæ,

Aloës Extracti contusi, āā ℥vj.

Vini Albi (*Sherry*) f ℥xxiv.

Macera per dies septem, et cola.

Of the "*Vinum Aloës*" of the Pharmacopœia, one or two drachms is given as a gentle assistant to the action of the stomach and bowels, and an ounce or an ounce and a half as a decided purge.

*Vinum Colchici.*

R Colchici Radicis recentis concisæ libram,

Spiritûs tenuioris fluiduncias quatuor,

Aquæ destillatæ fluiduncias octo;

Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

*Wine of Meadow Saffron.*

Take of Meadow Saffron Root fresh and sliced, a pound,

Proof Spirit, four fluidounces,

Distilled Water, eight fluidounces;

Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.

<sup>1</sup> 1822, p. 817.

This form of meadow saffron is quite inadmissible, from its extreme proneness to fermentation and decomposition. A tincture, or a vinous infusion of the dried root, are the only eligible forms for its administration, and they are quite unobjectionable. Mr. Thomson has given the following good formula for the latter<sup>1</sup>:—

“Take of the bulbs of *Colchicum* (dug up in July or August) sliced transversely, and dried without heat, or at a temperature not exceeding 110°, one ounce and a half; pulverise them, and pour upon the powder, put into a glass bottle, twelve fluidounces of good sherry wine. Agitate the mixture twice a day for seven days, and then filter for use.”

“The dose of this wine is from ʒj. to fʒj. given with water only, or in combination with magnesia in the effervescing draught, or with infusion of cinchona bark, or of gentian root, or any other bitter.”

### *Vinum Ipecacuanhæ.*

R Ipecacuanhæ Radicis contusæ uncias duas,  
 Spiritûs tenuioris fluiduncias duodecim,  
 Aquæ destillatæ fluiduncias viginti;  
 Macera per dies quatuordecim, et cola.

### *Wine of Ipecacuanha.*

Take of Ipecacuanha Root bruised, two ounces,  
 Proof Spirit, twelve fluidounces,  
 Distilled Water, twenty fluidounces;  
 Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.

A vinous or weak spirituous infusion of ipecacuanha is a very useful preparation as furnishing a convenient means of subdividing the remedy into small doses, as an expectorant; and also, especially when sweetened a little, as an emetic for young children, to whom a teaspoonful may be given every ten or fifteen minutes till it produces vomiting. From twenty to sixty drops is expectorant, slightly aperient, and diaphoretic, especially when conjoined with saline medicines.—(See “*Ipecacuanhæ Radix*,” page 128.)

### *Vinum Opii.*

R Extracti Opii unciam,  
 Cinnamomi Corticis contusi,  
 Caryophyllorum contusorum, singulorum drachmam,  
 Spiritûs tenuioris fluiduncias sex,  
 Aquæ destillatæ fluiduncias decem;  
 Macera per dies octo, et cola.

### *Wine of Opium.*

Take of Extract of Opium, an ounce,  
 Cinnamon Bark bruised,  
 Cloves bruised, of each a drachm,  
 Proof Spirit, six fluidounces,  
 Distilled Water, ten fluidounces;  
 Macerate for eight days, and strain.

<sup>1</sup> Lond. Disp. 1822, p. 922.



For reasons already stated, we prefer crude opium to the extract, and consequently the *tinctura opii* to this *vinum*. If it be required to conjoin opium with aromatics, they are easily added to the simple tincture, in which, owing to the activity of its contents, the strength of the menstruum can never be objectionable. The only reason for preferring the above wine to the common tincture, and extract of opium to crude opium, is, that its taste is not so perceptible as that of crude opium; but this is rarely of any importance, and it is covered by a properly-selected vehicle, especially by the aromatic distilled waters. The dose of the above preparation is about the same as that of the "*Tinctura Opii*" (see page 448). It is sometimes locally applied to the eye, in cases where, after active inflammation has been subdued, the vessels remain turgid; two or three drops are dropped into the eye night and morning, till the morbid vascularity disappears. *Sydenham's liquid laudanum*, once a celebrated formula, must not be confounded with this "Wine of Opium;" it was double the strength of the above, and in addition to the spices contained saffron.

### *Vinum Veratri.*

R Veratri Radicis concisæ uncias  
octo,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarium,  
Aquæ distillatæ octarium cum  
semisse;  
Macerate per dies quatuordecim, et  
cola.

### *Wine of White Hellebore.*

Take of White Hellebore Root sliced,  
eight ounces,  
Proof Spirit, a pint,  
Distilled Water, a pint and a  
half;  
Macerate for fourteen days, and  
strain.

The celebrated nostrum for the gout, called *Eau Médicinale d'Husson*, was long supposed to contain white hellebore; and a number of curious facts corroborative of such a supposition were published some years ago by Mr. James Moore<sup>1</sup>. It was afterwards, however, more satisfactorily shown that the root of the *colchicum autumnale* (see page 83) was the source of the antipodagric powers of that remedy; and it is a curious coincidence, that the researches of Pelletier and Caventou have rendered it more than probable that the same peculiar salifiable and active principle exists in white hellebore and in meadow saffron: the latter, as a medicine, is, however, more manageable and certain in its operation than the former, and is therefore preferred, indeed to the exclusion of the above prepara-

<sup>1</sup> Two Letters to Dr. Jones on the Composition of the *Eau Médicinale d'Husson*, &c. &c. 1811.

tion, which is now never prescribed. From five to thirty drops of the above "wine" is a dose: for an account of its action and effects, the reader is referred to Mr. Moore's "Letters," already quoted.

## VINEGARS.

Common vinegar was formerly much used as a pharmaceutical solvent; and although, in some few cases, it appears to possess peculiar advantages, it is not a desirable menstruum, in consequence of its liability to decomposition. Distilled vinegar is less objectionable; and the pure acetic acid, properly diluted, furnishes a still preferable substitute. But medicated vinegars have now nearly fallen into disuse; and the two which are retained in the Pharmacopœia, and to which a portion of spirit, though much too small, is added for the purpose of preserving them from change, might, without the smallest inconvenience, have been altogether omitted.

### *Acetum Colchici.*

℞ Colchici Radicis recentis concisæ  
unciam,  
Acidi acetici diluti octarium,  
Spiritus tenuioris fluidunciam;

Colchici Radicem macera cum Acido,  
in vase vitreo clauso, per dies tres;  
dein exprime, et sepone, ut fæces sub-  
sidant; denique liquori defæcato Spiri-  
tum adjice.

This preparation is open to the same objections as the "Vinum Colchici," and is not wanted; but if a vinegar of meadow saffron be deemed necessary, it should be prepared with the dried root. From one drachm to half a fluidounce of the above has been given for a dose, chiefly in conjunction with diuretics, as a part of the treatment of dropsy, but it is not to be relied on.

### *Vinegar of Meadow Saffron.*

Take of Meadow Saffron Root fresh  
and sliced, an ounce,  
Diluted acetic Acid, a pint,  
Proof Spirit, a fluidounce;

Macerate the Meadow Saffron Root  
with the Acid in a covered glass vessel  
for three days; then express it, and set  
it by that the dregs may subside; lastly,  
add the Spirit to the clear liquor.

### *Acetum Scillæ.*

℞ Scillæ Radicis recens exsiccatae  
libram,  
Acidi acetici diluti octarios sex,  
Spiritus tenuioris octarium dimi-  
dium;

### *Vinegar of Squill.*

Take of Squill Root recently dried, a  
pound,  
Diluted acetic Acid, six pints,  
Proof Spirit half a pint;



*Scillæ Radicem macera cum Acido, leni calore, in vase vitreo clauso, per horas viginti quatuor; dein exprime, et sepone, ut fæces subsident; denique liquori defæcato spiritum adjice.*

Macerate the Squill Root with the Acid by a gentle heat, in a covered glass vessel, for twenty-four hours; then express it and set it by that the dregs may subside; lastly, add the spirit to the clear liquor.

This, though not a bad preparation of squills, is very seldom used, the tincture or powder being preferred. When prescribed, it is generally with a view to its diuretic effect, in the dose of a drachm or two, conjoined with nitre, acetate of potassa, and other analogous remedies. In cases of mucous obstruction of the bronchiæ, an emetic composed of half a fluidounce of vinegar of squill, ten grains of ipecacuanha, and an ounce of mint-water, has been recommended with advantage; but the preparations of squills are not, generally speaking, commendable emetics.—(See the article *Scillæ Radix* in the *Materia Medica*, and *Tinctura Scillæ* above.)

Vinegar of squill soon becomes turbid, but it retains its activity tolerably well.

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## PREPARATIONS OF HONEY.

Honey was once regarded as a powerful deobstruent and expectorant, and formed the basis of a number of balsamic and pectoral remedies. It is now not employed, except as a mild aperient, as a vehicle for powders, and occasionally as a means of diffusing insoluble substances through water. Among the “Mellita” of the *Pharmacopœia*, the *mel boracis* might, without inconvenience, have been consigned to extemporaneous prescription, as it is frequently necessary to vary the quantity of borax which it contains. *Mel rosæ* is neither sufficiently useful nor elegant to justify its retention; and *oxymel scillæ*, though an active and useful compound of that drug, may be extemporaneously and unobjectionably imitated, by the addition of tincture of squills to simple oxymel.

The preparations of honey, if properly made, and not too thin, are not very liable to ferment; their multiplicity, therefore, is not so objectionable as that of the “syrups;” but it is always desirable to curtail as much as possible the list of those compounds which are rarely resorted to; for they spoil and decompose by age, and in consequence of their very sparing employment, are rarely in a state fit for use when wanted.

*Mel Despumatum.*

Mel in balneo aquoso liqua; tum  
spumam aufer.

*Clarified Honey.*

Melt the honey in a water-bath;  
then remove the scum.

By this process a portion of wax is the only substance that is separated in the form of scum from pure honey: if it be adulterated with flour, or other extraneous substances, they either subside or are entangled by and rise with the scum. When this clarification is carefully performed, and it never should be attempted, as it often is, over the open fire, the product retains the flavour and perfume of the original honey; it should be perfectly clear, and of a brownish yellow colour, and so viscid as to pour with difficulty from one vessel to another: no water should be added to it.

The only use of clarified honey is as the basis of electuaries, and an occasional ingredient in gargles, to which it imparts more viscosity than syrup. In the same way it is employed as a vehicle for sulphate of zinc and sulphate of copper, to form an application to the small troublesome ulcers which sometimes affect the throat and soft palate. For this purpose, five grains of sulphate of copper or of sulphate of zinc may be dissolved in half an ounce of clarified honey or of simple oxymel, and the ulcers touched three or four times daily with a camel-hair pencil dipped into the solution. In these cases it is presumed that the affection is local, or at least unattended by any marked constitutional debility, and independent of venereal infection.

*Mel Boracis.*

R Sodæ Subboratis contritæ drach-  
mam,  
Mellis despumati unciam;  
Misce.

*Honey of Borax.*

Take of Subborate of Soda in powder,  
a drachm,  
Clarified Honey, an ounce;  
Mix.

The medicinal uses of this preparation of borax are referred to under the article "Sodæ Subboras," in the *Materia Medica*.



*Mel Rosæ.*

R Rosæ Gallicæ Petalorum exsiccatum uncias quatuor,  
 Aquæ ferventis octarios tres,  
 Mellis despumati libras quinque;

Macera Rosæ Petala in Aqua per horas sex; deinde liquori colato adjice Mel, et balneo aquoso ad idoneam crassitudinem decoque.

*Honey of Rose.*

Take of Red Rose Petals dried, four ounces,  
 Boiling Water, three pints;  
 Clarified Honey, five pounds;

Macerate the Rose Petals in the Water for six hours; then to the strained liquor add the Honey, and boil them down in a water-bath to a proper consistence.

This is only useful as an addition to gargles; with a little acid, the red colour of the roses is agreeably exalted.

*Oxymel Simplex.*

R Mellis despumati libras duas,  
 Acidi acetici diluti octarium;  
 Decoque in vase vitreo, lento igne, ad idoneam crassitudinem.

*Simple Oxymel.*

Take of clarified Honey, two pounds,  
 Diluted acetic Acid, one pint;  
 Boil them down in a glass vessel over a slow fire until they acquire a proper consistence.

This compound of honey and vinegar is a good addition to gargles in inflammatory sore-throat, and effectual in allaying the irritating tickling in the throat caused by common catarrh, when taken frequently in small quantities. It is also a pleasant addition to cooling drinks in fevers.

The above formula for the preparation of oxymel is very objectionable, in consequence of the long evaporation that is required before it attains a proper consistency: the following will be found in all respects a preferable process:—

R Mellis despumati libras duas,  
 Acidi Acetici fortioris,  
 Aquæ destillatæ, aa f ʒij.  
 Misce.

The most convenient way of mixing these ingredients is to put them into an earthenware jar placed in a vessel of boiling water, by which the despumated honey is attenuated, and they are easily stirred together. Without the water the compound is rather too thick.

*Oxymel Scillæ.*

℞ Mellis despumati libras tres,  
Aceti Scillæ octarios duos ;  
Decoque in vase vitreo, lento igne,  
ad idoneam crassitudinem.

*Oxymel of Squill.*

Take of clarified Honey, three pounds,  
Vinegar of Squill, two pints ;  
Boil them down in a glass vessel  
over a slow fire until they acquire a  
proper consistence.

From half a drachm to two drachms of this oxymel may be given as an expectorant where squill is proper, or half an ounce as an emetic ; but the tedious evaporation required to reduce it to a due consistency appears to injure the active ingredient. The oxymels may be safely boiled in tinned-copper vessels ; but if the formula above recommended for simple oxymel be followed, no boiling down is requisite.—(See *Scillæ Radix* in the *Materia Medica*.)

## SYRUPS.

These, with very few exceptions, are unimportant preparations ; they are also objectionable from their tendency to ferment and decompose, and should therefore, as far as possible, be excluded from *Pharmacopœiæ*. The only general directions given respecting them, by the London College, are the following:—

Conserventur Syrupi in loco, ubi calor  
gradum 55<sup>num</sup> nunquam excedat.

Let Syrup be kept in a place the  
temperature of which never exceeds  
55°.

This is probably with a view to prevent their fermentation ; but, with every practicable precaution as to temperature, those syrups which abound in vegetable mucilage become ropy and acescent, and others deposit sugar in the candied form.

*Syrupus Althææ.*

℞ Althææ Radicis recentis contusæ  
libram dimidiam,  
Sacchari purificati libras duas,  
Aquæ octarios quatuor ;

Decoque Aquam cum Radice ad  
dimidiam, et liquorem frige factum  
exprime. Sepone per horas viginti  
quatuor, ut fæces subsident ; tum li-  
quorem effunde, atque, adjecto Sac-  
charo, ad idoneam crassitudinem de-  
coque.

*Syrup of Marshmallow.*

Take of Marshmallow Root fresh and  
bruised, half a pound,  
Refined Sugar, two pounds,  
Water, four pints ;

Boil down the Water with the Root  
to one half, and press out the liquor  
when cold. Set it by for twenty-four  
hours that the dregs may subside ;  
then pour off the liquor, and, having  
added the Sugar, boil down to a proper  
consistence.



This is a particularly useless syrup, very prone to fermentation.

### *Syrupus Aurantiorum.*

R Aurantiorum Corticis recentis uncias duas,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium,  
Sacchari purificati libras tres ;

Macerate Corticem in Aqua per horas duodecim, in vase leviter clauso ; tum liquorem effunde, eique Saccharum adijce.

### *Syrup of Oranges.*

Take of fresh Orange Peel, two ounces,

Boiling Water, a pint,  
Refined Sugar, three pounds ;

Macerate the Peel in the Water for twelve hours in a covered vessel ; then pour off the liquor, and add the Sugar to it.

In this syrup the flavour of the orange peel is not sufficiently predominant to confer it upon the compounds to which it is usually added. A good substitute will be found in a mixture of 2 ounces of tincture of orange peel with 14 ounces of thick simple syrup. It is improperly called syrup of *oranges*, and contains superabundance of sugar, so that it is apt to crystallise.

### *Syrupus Croci.*

R Croci Stigmatum unciam,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium,  
Sacchari purificati libras duas cum semisse ;

Macerate Croci Stigmata in Aqua per horas duodecim, in vase leviter clauso ; dein liquorem cola, et Saccharum adjice.

### *Syrup of Saffron.*

Take of Saffron, an ounce,  
Boiling Water, a pint,  
Refined Sugar, two pounds and a half ;

Macerate the Saffron in the Water for twelve hours in a covered vessel ; then strain the liquor, and add the Sugar.

Syrup of saffron was once in great vogue as a nervous cordial and restorative ; its only use is as a colouring material.

### *Syrupus Limonum.*

R Limonum Succo colati octarium,  
Sacchari purificati libras duas ;

Liqua Saccharum in Succo Limonum, eodem modo quo de Syropo simplici præceptum est.

### *Syrup of Lemons.*

Take of Lemon Juice strained, a pint,  
Refined Sugar, two pounds ;

Dissolve the Sugar in the Lemon Juice in the manner directed for simple Syrup.

An elegant and agreeable syrup is afforded by this formula, but it is usually left to extemporaneous prescription. It is

useful in allaying the dryness and tickling of the fauces in cases of catarrh; and, mixed with barley-water, it furnishes a very pleasant acidulous drink.

### *Syrupus Mori.*

R Mori Succī colatī octarium,  
Sacchari purificati libras duas;

Liqua Saccharum in Succo Mori,  
eodem modo quo de Syrupo simplici  
præceptum est.

### *Syrup of Mulberry.*

Take of Mulberry Juice strained, a pint,  
Refined Sugar, two pounds;

Dissolve the Sugar in the Mulberry  
Juice in the same manner as directed  
for simple Syrup.

Fresh mulberry syrup may be used for the same purposes as syrup of lemons, and in gargles and mixtures its colour sometimes recommends it; but it is very apt to ferment, and much less pleasant in flavour than syrup of raspberries, which is now expunged.

### *Syrupus Papaveris.*

R Papaveris Capsularum exsiccatarum  
et contusarum, demptis semini-  
bus, uncias quatuordecim,  
Sacchari purificati libras duas,  
Aquæ ferventis congios duos cum  
semisse;

Macerate Capsulas in Aqua per horas  
viginti quatuor; tum balneo aquoso ad  
congiū decoque, et fortiter exprime.  
Liquorem colatum iterum decoque ad  
octarios duos, et adhuc ferventem cola.  
Sepone per horas duodecim, ut fæces  
subsistant; tum liquorem defæcatum  
decoque ad octarium, et Saccharum ad-  
jice, eodem modo quo de Syrupo sim-  
plici præceptum est.

### *Syrup of Poppy.*

Take of Poppy Capsules dried, bruised,  
and free from seeds, fourteen  
ounces,  
Refined Sugar, two pounds,  
Boiling Water, two gallons and  
a half;

Macerate the Capsules in the Water  
for twenty-four hours, then in a water-  
bath boil them down to one gallon, and  
strongly express them. Boil down  
this liquor again to two pints, and  
strain it while hot. Set it by for twelve  
hours, that the dregs may subside; then  
boil down the clear liquor to a pint,  
and add the Sugar in the manner di-  
rected for simple Syrup.

There is no particular necessity for the use of a water-bath in the above preparation, as the commotion of boiling keeps the capsules from the bottom of the boiler, and prevents burning. A steam-boiler is, however, best calculated for the purpose.

This syrup should be used as fresh as possible; it is then an excellent opiate, and, in the dose of a drachm or two, proves effective in allaying irritation and producing sleep, in cases



where it is desirable to avoid opium in other forms: it has no taste of that drug.

Syrup of poppies is often administered as a sedative to children, but is in every way objectionable, for it is too uncertain in its strength or narcotic powers to enable us correctly to apportion the dose; and being a preparation the activity of which is often unsuspected, it is given with a degree of carelessness and inattention that is sometimes productive of dangerous, if not of fatal consequences.—(See *Papaveris Capsulæ*, in the *Materia Medica*.) No form of opium should ever be given to children, except in cases where it is absolutely required, and under proper medical superintendence; on such occasions the tincture is the best form.

### *Syrupus Rhamni.*

R Rhamni Baccarum Succı recentis  
octarios quatuor,  
Zingiberis Radicis concisæ,  
Pimentæ Baccarum contritarum singulorum unciam dimidiam,  
Sacchari purificati libras tres cum semisse;

Sepone Succum per triduum, ut fæces subsidant, et cola. Succı defæcati octario Zingiberis Radicem et Pimentæ Baccas adjice; tum macera leni calore per horas quatuor, et cola; quod reliquum est ad mensuram octarii cum semisse decoque; liquores misce; et Saccharum adjice, eodem modo quo de Syrupo simplici præceptum est.

### *Syrup of Buckthorn.*

Take of the fresh Juice of Buckthorn Berries, four pints,  
Ginger Root sliced,  
Pimenta Berries in powder, of each half an ounce,  
Refined Sugar, three pounds and a half;

Set by the Juice for three days, that the dregs may subside, and strain. To a pint of the clear Juice add the Ginger Root and Pimenta Berries; then macerate in a gentle heat for four hours, and strain; boil down the remainder to one pint and a half; mix the liquors; and add the Sugar in the same manner as is directed for simple Syrup.

Buckthorn is only fit for a veterinary pharmacopœia. The syrup is scarcely ever prescribed, and, consequently, if found in an apothecary's shop, is generally in an unfit state for use.

### *Syrupus Rhæados.*

R Rhæados Petalorum recentium libram,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium fluiduncıis duabus,  
Sacchari purificati libras duas cum semisse;

### *Syrup of Red Poppy.*

Take of fresh Red Poppy Petals, a pound,  
Boiling Water, a pint and two fluidounces,  
Refined Sugar, two pounds and a half;

Aquæ, balneo aquoso calefactæ, Rhœados Petala paulatim adjice, subindè moveas; tum, vase remoto, macera per horas duodecim, dein liquorem exprime, et sepone, ut fæces subsident; denique Saccharum adjice, eodem modo quo de Syrupo simplici præceptum est.

To the Water, heated in a water-bath, gradually add the Poppy Petals, occasionally stirring them; then, having removed the vessel, macerate for twelve hours; afterwards press out the liquor, and set it by that the dregs may subside; lastly, add the Sugar in the same manner as is directed for simple Syrup.

This syrup is of no further use than as a colouring matter: it is liable to ferment and become ropy in warm weather.

### *Syrupus Rosæ.*

R Rosæ centifoliæ Petalorum exsiccatorum uncias septem,  
Sacchari purificati libras sex,  
Aquæ ferventis octarios quatuor;

Macera Rosæ Petala in Aqua per horas duodecim, et cola. Liquorem colatum balneo aquoso consume ad octarios duos cum semisse; dein Saccharum adjice, eodem modo quo de Syrupo simplici præceptum est.

### *Syrup of Roses.*

Take of Damask Rose Petals dried, seven ounces,  
Refined Sugar, six pounds,  
Boiling Water, four pints;

Macerate the Rose Petals in the Water for twelve hours, and strain; evaporate the strained liquor by the aid of a water-bath to two pints and a half; then add the Sugar in the manner directed for simple Syrup.

This, like the preceding syrup, is of little use; its colouring matter becomes of a more lively red when added to acid mixtures, and is rendered green or yellow by the alkalies. It is thought to be mildly aperient.

### *Syrupus Sarsaparillæ.*

R Sarsaparillæ Radicis concisæ libram;

Aquæ ferventis congium,  
Sacchari purificati libram;

Macera Radicem in Aqua per horas viginti quatuor; tum decoque ad octarios quatuor, et liquorem adhuc calentem cola; dein adjice Saccharum, et ad idoneam crassitudinem consume.

### *Syrup of Sarsaparilla.*

Take of Sarsaparilla Root sliced, a pound,  
Boiling Water a gallon,  
Refined Sugar, a pound;

Macerate the Root in the Water for twenty-four hours; then boil down to four pints, and strain the liquor while hot; then add the Sugar, and evaporate to a proper consistency.

A very strong decoction of sarsaparilla, made into a syrup, was originally prepared by Mr. Fisher, as a convenient and portable form for the administration of that remedy; it is not



liable to ferment, nor is it disagreeable when diluted with water. It has lately been much prescribed, and hence, probably, the introduction of the above formula into the present Pharmacopœia. It is improved by the addition of a few cloves, and may be taken as an alterative, in the dose of a dessert-spoonful, three or four times a day. The sugar is apt to disagree with some stomachs, which is sometimes prevented by adding 5 to 10 drops of solution of potassa to each dose. In consequence of the large doses in which sarsaparilla requires to be taken, the syrup prepared of such a strength as that one ounce is equal to a pint of the *simple decoction*, is a convenient and elegant form—of this half an ounce or 6 drachms may be taken two or three times a day, diluted with about two parts of water. It should be prepared with great nicety and caution, and the selection of the sarsaparilla carefully attended to.—(See *Sarsaparillæ Radix*, page 189, and *Extractum Sarsaparillæ*, page 413.)

### *Syrupus Sennæ.*

R Sennæ Foliorum uncias duas,  
Fœniculi Seminum contusorum un-  
ciam,  
Mannæ uncias tres,  
Sacchari purificati libram,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium;

Sennæ Folia et Fœniculi Semina in  
Aqua macera leni calore per horam.  
Liquorem cola, et cum hoc Mannam  
et Saccharum misce; dein decoque ad  
idoneam crassitudinem.

### *Syrup of Senna.*

Take of Senna Leaves, two ounces,  
Fennel Seeds bruised, an  
ounce,  
Manna, three ounces,  
Refined Sugar, a pound,  
Boiling Water, a pint;

Macerate the Senna Leaves and  
Fennel Seeds in the Water for an  
hour, with a gentle heat. Strain the  
liquor, and mix with it the Manna  
and the Sugar; then boil down to a  
proper consistency.

This syrup is often found in a concrete state. It is intended as a carminative aperient for children; but the flavour of the fennel is fugitive, and the whole mixture unpharmaceutical.

### *Syrupus Simplex.*

R Sacchari purificati libras duas cum  
semisse,  
Aquæ octarium;

### *Simple Syrup.*

Take of Refined Sugar two pounds and  
a half,  
Water, a pint;

Liqua Saccharum in Aqua balneo aquoso; tum sepone per horas viginti quatuor; dein spumam aufer, et à fæcibus, si quæ sint, liquorem purum effunde.

Dissolve the Sugar in the Water in a water-bath; then set the solution aside for twenty-four hours; after which take off the scum, and, if there be any dregs, pour off the clear liquor.

Simple syrup should be clear and nearly colourless; it is a very convenient form of sugar for a variety of pharmaceutical purposes; it saves the time and trouble of weighing and dissolving the solid material.

### *Syrupus Tolutanus.*

R Balsami Tolutani unciam,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium,  
Sacchari purificati libras duas;

Coque Balsamum in Aqua per horam dimidiam in vase clauso, subinde movens, et liquorem refrigeratum cola; dein Saccharum adjice, eodem modo quo de Syrupo simplici præceptum est.

### *Syrup of Tolu.*

Take of Balsam of Tolu, an ounce,  
Boiling Water, a pint,  
Refined Sugar, two pounds;

Boil the Balsam in the Water for half an hour in a covered vessel, stirring them occasionally, and strain the liquor when cold; then add the Sugar, in the manner directed for simple Syrup.

The same portion of balsam is generally repeatedly used in this preparation, and it long continues to impart flavour when boiled in water. The syrup has a pleasant and elegant flavour, but it is more readily, and equally well prepared by the addition of tincture of tolu to simple syrup; the tincture is, however, now omitted in the Pharmacopœia.

### *Syrupus Zingiberis.*

R Zingiberis Radicis concisæ uncias duas,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium,  
Sacchari purificati libras duas;

Macera Zingiberis Radicem in Aqua per horas quatuor, et cola; dein Saccharum adjice, eodem modo quo de Syrupo simplici præceptum est.

### *Syrup of Ginger.*

Take of Ginger Root sliced, two ounces,  
Boiling Water, a pint,  
Refined Sugar, two pounds;

Macerate the Ginger Root in the Water for four hours, and strain; then add the sugar as directed for simple Syrup.

With double the prescribed quantity of ginger, this syrup is a good adjunct to purgatives and stomachic bitters. It is too weak as it is to be of much use.



## CONFECTIONS.

Under this term are now included the *conserves* and *electuaries* of former Pharmacopœiæ. They are inconvenient preparations in consequence of the quantity of sugar which most of them contain, and of their tendency to spoil or become dry. The following are the only general directions respecting them:—

Confectiones, si diu servatæ indurescant, Aquâ humectandæ sunt, ut idonea crassitudo restituatur.

If confections, when long kept, have become indurated, they are to be moistened with Water, so that a proper consistency may be restored.

*Confectio Amygdalarum.*

R Amygdalarum dulcium unciam,  
Acaciæ Gummi contriti drachmam,  
Sacchari purificati unciam dimidiam;

Amygdalis priùs in Aqua maceratis, demptisque pelliculis, omnia simul contunde, donec corpus unum sit.

*Confection of Almonds.*

Take of Sweet Almonds, an ounce,  
Gum Arabic in powder, a drachm,  
Refined Sugar, half an ounce;

Having first macerated the Almonds in Water and removed their external covering, pound all the ingredients, until they are incorporated.

This is a convenient paste for the preparation of the *mistura amygdalarum*, and may be long kept without acquiring rancidity, if made strictly according to the above directions; but if any water be added to the ingredients, the confection very soon becomes mouldy.

*Confectio Aromatica.*

R Cinnamomi Corticis,  
Myristicæ Nucleorum, singulorum uncias duas,  
Caryophyllorum unciam,  
Cardamomi Seminum unciam dimidiam,  
Croci Stigmatum exsiccatorum uncias duas,  
Testarum præparatarum uncias sedecim,

*Aromatic Confection.*

Take of Cinnamon Bark,  
Nutmegs, of each two ounces,  
Cloves, an ounce,  
Cardamom Seeds, half an ounce,  
Saffron dried, two ounces,  
Prepared Oyster Shells, sixteen ounces,

Sacchari purificati contriti libras  
duas,  
Aquæ octarium ;

Arida simul in pulverem subtilissimum tere ; tum Aquam paulatim adjice, et misce, donec corpus unum sit.

Refined Sugar in powder, two  
pounds,  
Water, a pint ;

Reduce the dry ingredients to a very fine powder together ; then gradually add the Water, and mix until they are incorporated.

This is a combination of aromatics, often found useful in practice ; it is given, diffused in draughts or mixtures, in the dose of from 20 grains to a drachm, and is a proper addition to æthereal and tonic remedies in low fevers and other cases where warm stimulants are indicated. It is generally very agreeable to the stomach, relieving flatulence and nausea, and sometimes checking obstinate and alarming vomiting, especially where it occurs in broken constitutions, or is brought on by the injudicious use of mercury ; in such cases the following mixture may be prescribed :—

R Potassæ Carbonatis ℥jss.  
Misturæ Camphoræ f ℥vss.  
Confectionis Aromaticæ ℥ij.  
Spiritus Myristicæ f ℥ss.

M. fiat mistura, cujus sumatur cochlearia tria ampla cum cochleare uno Succı Limonum recentis, in actu effervescentiæ.

### *Confectio Aurantiorum.*

R Aurantiorum Corticis exterioris recentis radulâ separati, libram,  
Sacchari purificati libras tres ;

Corticem, in mortario lapideo, pistillo ligneo contunde ; tum, adjecto Saccharo, iterum contunde, donec corpus unum sit.

### *Confection of Oranges.*

Take of the outer fresh Rind of Oranges separated by a rasp, a pound,  
Refined Sugar, three pounds,

Bruise the Rind in a stone mortar with a wooden pestle ; then, having added the Sugar, pound them until they are incorporated.

The principal use of confection of orange peel is as an agreeable stomachic vehicle for tonic powders ; but it is scarcely of sufficient importance to sanction its retention, and is apt to deteriorate by keeping. It may be thinned, when prescribed in electuaries, with syrup of orange peel or of ginger, and is a proper vehicle for red oxide (subcarbonate) of iron, which may be prescribed as follows :—

R Ferri Subcarbonatis,  
Syrupi Zingiberis, aa ℥ss.  
Confectionis Aurantiorum ℥ij.

M. fiat electuarium, de quo capiatur molem nucis moschatæ bis vel ter quotidie.



*Confectio Cassiæ.*

R Cassiæ Pulpæ recentis libram dimidium,  
 Mannæ uncias duas,  
 Tamarindi Pulpæ unciam,  
 Syrupi Rosæ octarium dimidium;  
 Mannam contunde; tum, balneo aquoso, in Syrupo liqua; deinde admisce pulpas, et humorem consume, donec idonea fiat crassitudo.

*Confection of Cassia.*

Take of fresh Cassia Pulp, half a pound,  
 Manna, two ounces,  
 Tamarind Pulp, an ounce,  
 Syrup of Roses, half a pint;  
 Bruise the Manna, then dissolve it in the Syrup with the aid of a water-bath; then mix in the pulps, and evaporate the moisture till it acquires a proper consistency.

This is a griping, windy, and ineffective purgative, not wanted as an adjunct to other aperients, for which alone it is proper.

*Confectio Opii.*

R Opii duri contriti drachmas sex,  
 Piperis longi Fructûs unciam,  
 Zingiberis Radicis uncias duas,  
 Carui Semen uncias tres,  
 Tragacanthæ contritæ drachmas duas,  
 Syrupi octarium;  
 Opium cum Syrupo calefacto contere; tum cætera contrita adjice, et misce.

*Confection of Opium.*

Take of hard Opium in powder, six drachms,  
 Long Pepper, an ounce,  
 Ginger Root, two ounces,  
 Caraway seeds, three ounces,  
 Tragacanth in powder, two drachms,  
 Syrup, a pint;  
 Heat the Syrup, and rub the Opium with it; then add the other ingredients in powder, and mix.

36 grains of this confection contain about 1 grain of opium. It is a useful remedy in checking common diarrhœa, in some forms of chronic rheumatism, and in atonic gout. From 10 grains to 1 drachm are given in such cases, diffused through chalk mixture, camphor mixture, or any of the aromatic waters.

*Confectio Piperis Nigri.*

R Piperis Nigri,  
 Helenii Radicis, singulorum libram,  
 Fœniculi Semen libras tres,  
 Mellis,  
 Sacchari purificati, singulorum libras duas;  
 Arida simul in pulverem subtilissimum tere; dein, adjecto Melle, contunde, donec corpus unum sit.

*Confection of Black Pepper.*

Take of Black Pepper,  
 Elecampane Root, of each a pound,  
 Fennel Seeds, three pounds,  
 Honey,  
 Refined Sugar, of each two pounds,  
 Rub the dry ingredients together, into a very fine powder; then, having added the Honey, rub them till the whole is incorporated.

This is "Ward's Paste for the Piles," a mischievous remedy when indiscriminately and carelessly used, especially in plethoric and feverish habits. Where there is constitutional sluggishness and debility, it proves useful in stimulating the secretory surface of the rectum. Ward was originally a footman, and during his attendance upon his master on the Continent, obtained from the monks those receipts which he afterwards vended as *nostrums*.

*Confectio Rosæ Caninæ. Confection of Dog Rose.*

R Rosæ caninæ Pulpæ libram,  
Sacchari purificati contriti uncias  
viginti;

Pulpam, in balneo aquoso, leni calori  
expone; tum saccharum paulatim  
adjice, et tere simul, donec corpus unum  
sit.

Take of Dog Rose Pulp, a pound,  
Refined Sugar in powder,  
twenty ounces;

Expose the Pulp to a gentle heat in  
a water-bath, then add the Sugar by  
degrees, and rub them together until  
they are incorporated.

In pectoral electuaries and linctuses, this conserve is sometimes conveniently used in consequence of its viscid tenacity; on the whole, however, it is an insignificant preparation, and objectionable on account of the facility with which it becomes indurated when kept.

*Confectio Rosæ Gallicæ. Confection of Red Roses.*

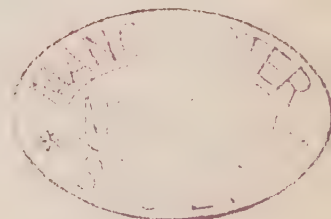
R Rosæ Gallicæ Petalorum nondum  
explicatorum, abjectis unguibus,  
libram,  
Sacchari purificati libras tres;

Petala in mortario lapideo contunde;  
tum, adjecto Saccharo, iterum contunde,  
donec corpus unum sit.

Take of Red Rose Petals before they  
blow, and without their ca-  
lyces, a pound,  
Refined Sugar, three pounds;

Pound the Petals in a stone mortar,  
then, having added the Sugar, pound  
them again until they are incorpo-  
rated.

The principal use of this confection is in the formation of pills, and as an occasional adjunct to, or vehicle for, other more active remedies in the form of electuary. It long retains its moisture and consistency, and is neither liable to mouldiness nor fermentation.





*Confectio Rutæ.*

R Rutæ Foliorum exsiccatum,  
 Carui Seminum,  
 Lauri Baccarum, singulorum un-  
 ciam cum semisse,  
 Sagapeni unciam dimidiam,  
 Piperis nigri Fructûs drachmas  
 duas,  
 Mellis despumati uncias sedecim ;

Arida simul in pulverem subtilissi-  
 mum tere ; tum, adjecto Melle, omnia  
 misce.

This is a nauseous confection, which is rarely prescribed,  
 and might have been thrown out of the Pharmacopœia.  
 Some practitioners direct it in antispasmodic enemata.

*Confection of Rue.*

Take of Rue Leaves dried,  
 Caraway Seeds,  
 Bay Berries, of each an ounce  
 and a half,  
 Sagapenum, half an ounce,  
 Black Pepper, two drachms,  
 Clarified Honey, sixteen  
 ounces ;

Rub the dry ingredients together to  
 a very fine powder ; then, having added  
 the honey, mix all together.

*Confectio Scammoneæ.*

R Scammoneæ Gummi-resinæ con-  
 tritæ unciam cum semisse,  
 Caryophyllorum contusorum,  
 Zingiberis Radicis contritæ, singu-  
 lorum drachmas sex,  
 Olei Carui fluidrachmam dimidiam,  
 Syrupi Rosæ quantum satis sit ;

Arida simul in pulverem subtilissi-  
 mum tere ; tum, instillato Syrupo, ite-  
 rum tere ; dein, adjecto Oleo Carui,  
 omnia misce.

This is a very ineligible form for the exhibition of scammony ;  
 it is seldom prescribed, and therefore, with the preceding con-  
 fection, might have been rejected from the officinal formulæ.

*Confection of Scammony.*

Take of Scammony Gum-resin in pow-  
 der, an ounce and a half,  
 Cloves bruised,  
 Ginger Root in powder, of each  
 six drachms,  
 Oil of Caraway, half a fluid-  
 drachm,  
 Syrup of [Roses, a sufficient  
 quantity ;

Rub the dry ingredients together to  
 a very fine powder : then, having  
 dropped in the Syrup, rub again ; and  
 lastly, having added the Oil of Cara-  
 way, mix all together.

*Confectio Sennæ.*

R Sennæ Foliorum uncias octo,  
 Caricæ Fructûs libram,  
 Tamarindi Pulpæ,  
 Cassiæ Pulpæ,  
 Prunorum Pulpæ, singulorum li-  
 bram dimidiam,

*Confection of Senna.*

Take of Senna Leaves, eight ounces,  
 Figs, a pound,  
 Tamarind Pulp,  
 Cassia Pulp,  
 Pulp of Prunes, of each half a  
 pound,

Coriandri Semen unciis quatuor,  
 Glycyrrhizæ Radicis unciis tres,  
 Sacchari purificati libras duas cum semisse;

Sennæ Folia cum Coriandri Seminibus tere, et cribro separa pulveris misti unciis decem. Residuum cum Caricæ Fructu et Glycyrrhizæ Radice ex Aquæ octariis quatuor ad dimidium decoque; deinde exprime, et cola. Liquorem colatum balneo aquoso consume, donec octarius cum semisse ex toto restet; tum, adjecto Saccharo, fiat Syrupus. Denique cum Syrupo Pulpas paulatim contere, et, injecto pulvere cribrato, omnia misce.

Coriander Seeds, four ounces,

Liquorice Root, three ounces,  
 Refined Sugar, two pounds  
 and a half;

Rub the Senna Leaves with the Coriander Seeds, and separate ten ounces of the mixed power by a sieve. Boil the remainder with the Figs and the Liquorice in four pints of Water down to one half; then express the liquor, and strain. Evaporate the strained liquor in a water-bath, until the whole is reduced to a pint and a half; then add the Sugar to form a Syrup. Lastly, rub the Pulps gradually with the Syrup, and, having added the sifted powder, mix all together.

With all its imperfections, this, which is the old and well-known *lenitive electuary*, is a useful preparation, rather apt to ferment in warm weather, and to gripe when given alone: it is, however, a good vehicle for the exhibition of more powerful cathartics, in which capacity it has already been spoken of (page 127). The process of the above formula is tiresome and expensive, and there are many temptations to sophistication. Dr. Paris says, that jalap, blackened with walnut liquor, is frequently substituted for the pulp of cassia; and the great bulk of it sold in London is little else than prunes, figs, and jalap. He adds, "I understand that a considerable quantity is also manufactured in Staffordshire, in which unsound and spoilt apples enter as a principal ingredient. The preparation sold at Apothecaries' Hall is certainly unique in excellence<sup>1</sup>."

## POWDERS.

The *compound powders*, as they should be called, of the present Pharmacopœia, are more numerous than practice requires; but this in respect to them is of little consequence, as they usually contain materials not liable to much deterioration by age. Their ingredients should be of such a nature as to suffer little from long exposure to air; they should neither be deliquescent, efflorescent, nor volatile. It has been supposed

<sup>1</sup> Pharmacologia.



that many substances suffer considerable change of properties in consequence of the facility with which the air acts upon them when in the state of powder; and this, not so much in consequence of the evaporation or loss of any volatile ingredient, as by the absorption of oxygen, and the consequent change of some of their more fixed principles, especially the extractive matter: but, although some such change is effected in many powders, we have no distinct evidence of any corresponding diminution of their medicinal virtues.

In the preparation of the officinal compound powders, especially of those which contain ingredients of very different specific gravities, or which consist of inert, combined with very active ingredients, the utmost attention is required to ensure their perfect and equable mixture. For this purpose, such of them as have been passed through a sieve should be afterwards triturated for a sufficient time in a shallow mortar, in such a way as to blend all their parts thoroughly together; after which, they should be shaken as little as possible, for mere agitation often tends to separate their ingredients. These powders should be kept in well-corked bottles, and should not be much exposed to air and light.

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*Pulvis Aloës Compositus. Compound Powder of Aloes.*

R Aloës spicatæ Extracti unciam cum semisse,  
Guaiaci Gummi-resinæ unciam,  
  
Pulveris Cinnamomi compositi unciam dimidiam;

Aloës Extractum et Guaiaci Gummi-resinam separatim in pulverem tere; dein cum Pulvere Cinnamomi composito misce.

Take of Extract of spiked Aloe, an ounce and a half,  
Guaiacum Gum-resin, an ounce,  
Compound Powder of Cinnamon, half an ounce;

Rub the Extract and the Guaiacum separately to powder; then mix them with the compound Powder of Cinnamon.

The "compound powder of aloes" is the most inapplicable of all the forms for the administration of that drug; it is, moreover, exceedingly nauseous. Some practitioners use it where a warm diaphoretic purge is wanted, in the dose of about fifteen grains, which should be formed into three or four pills, with mucilage of acacia.

*Pulvis Cinnamoni  
Compositus.*

R Cinnamomi Corticis uncias duas,  
Cardamomi Seminum unciam cum  
semisse,  
Zingiberis Radicis unciam,  
Piperis longi Fructûs unciam di-  
midiam ;

Tere simul, ut fiat pulvis subtilissi-  
mus.

*Compound Powder of  
Cinnamon.*

Take of Cinnamon Bark, two ounces,  
Cardamom Seeds, an ounce  
and a half,  
Ginger, an ounce,  
Long Pepper, half an ounce ;

Rub them together, so as to form a  
very fine powder.

This (the old *pulvis aromaticus*) is a warm combination of spices, useful as an addition to other remedies. In the proportion of five or ten grains to each dose, it is a proper adjunct to the powder of Peruvian bark ; to oxide of iron, as in the formula at page 304, and to sulphate of iron, as at page 306 ; but it does not generally bind well with pill masses ; and where an aromatic addition is wanted in draughts or mixtures, the “ *confectio aromatica* ” is preferable.

*Pulvis Contrajervæ Com-  
positus.*

R Contrajervæ Radicis contritæ un-  
cias quinque,  
Testarum præparatarum libram  
cum semisse ;

Misce.

*Compound Powder of  
Contrajerva.*

Take of Contrajerva Root in powder,  
five ounces,  
Prepared Oyster Shells, a  
pound and a half ;

Mix.

See “ *Contrajervæ Radix*,” among the articles of the *Materia Medica*.

*Pulvis Cornu Usti cum  
Opio.*

R Opii duri contriti drachmam,  
  
Cornuum ustorum et præparato-  
rum unciam,  
Cocci contriti drachmam ;

Misce.

*Powder of Calcined  
Hartshorn with Opium.*

Take of hard Opium in powder, a  
drachm,  
Hartshorn calcined and pre-  
pared, an ounce,  
Cochineal in powder, a  
drachm ;

Mix.



In this powder the opium is mixed with the inert bone-earth, merely for the sake of its subdivision; the use of the cochineal is not obvious. Ten grains contain one grain of opium.

### *Pulvis Cretæ Compositus.*

℞ Cretæ preparatæ libram dimidiam,  
Cinnamomi Corticis uncias quatuor,  
Tormentillæ Radicis,  
Acaciæ Gummi, singulorum uncias tres,  
Piperis longi Fructûs unciam dimidiam;

Separatim in pulverem subtilissimum tere; dein misce.

This is a good antacid astringent powder warmed by the addition of the cinnamon and long pepper. It comforts the bowels in diarrhœa, after a rhubarb purge has been administered, and is prescribed in the dose of from ten grains to half a drachm in some of the carminative waters.

### *Compound Powder of Chalk.*

Take of Prepared Chalk, half a pound,  
Cinnamon Bark, four ounces,

Tormentil Root,  
Gum Acacia, of each three ounces,  
Long Pepper, half an ounce;

Reduce them separately into very fine powder; then mix.

### *Pulvis Cretæ Compositus cum Opio.*

℞ Pulveris Cretæ compositi uncias sex cum semisse,  
Opii duri contriti scrupulos quatuor;  
Misce.

### *Compound Powder of Chalk with Opium.*

Take of Compound Powder of Chalk, six ounces and a half,  
Hard Opium in powder, four scruples;

Mix.

Two scruples of this powder contain a grain of opium, whence it derives additional power in checking diarrhœa.

### *Pulvis Ipecacuanhæ Compositus.*

℞ Ipecacuanhæ Radicis contritæ,  
Opii duri contriti, singulorum drachmam,  
Potassæ Sulphatis contritæ unciam;

Misce.

### *Compound Powder of Ipecacuanha.*

Take of Ipecacuanha Root in powder,  
Hard Opium in powder, of each a drachm,  
Sulphate of Potassa in powder, an ounce;

Mix.

A grain of opium is contained in ten grains of this powder, which is a truly valuable sudorific: it should be given at bedtime in a small quantity of liquid, for it is apt to nauseate if copious drinking be resorted to immediately after its administration. In febrile and rheumatic affections, and in all cases where a certainly acting sedative diaphoretic is required, its certainty of effect especially recommends it: its peculiarity of action has been adverted to at page 130.

The combination of ipecacuanha and opium in the above powder contributes mainly to its activity, and the sulphate of potassa is a convenient and proper vehicle. In the original "Dover's Powder," the saline ingredient was obtained by deflagrating nitre with sulphate of potassa; but the result of such an operation is a deliquescent saline mixture, and therefore less appropriate than simple sulphate of potassa, though nitre is often a very proper adjunct.

In the dose of five grains, this powder often proves effective, especially if conjoined with an equal quantity of mercurial pill, where that remedy is not contra-indicated, or with half a grain of calomel. From ten to twenty grains in a common saline draught, is the usual mode of prescribing it where its full sudorific power is wanted; it is, however, less apt to nauseate when given in the form of pills or in a little currant-jelly, or thick gruel.

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*Pulvis Kino Compositus.*      *Compound Powder of Kino.*

℞ Kino drachmas quindecim,  
Cinnamomi Corticis unciam dimi-  
diam,  
Opii duri drachmam;  
Separatim in pulverem subtilissimum  
tere; dein misce.

Take of Kino, fifteen drachms,  
Cinnamon Bark, half an  
ounce,  
Hard Opium, a drachm;  
Reduce them separately to very fine  
powder; and then mix.

Twenty grains of this powder include one grain of opium; its use is almost limited to the cure of diarrhœa; but it is also applicable in some dyspeptic affections, and in the milder forms of pyrosis.



*Pulvis Scammoneæ Compositus.*

R Scammoneæ Gummi-resinæ,  
Extracti Jalapæ duri, singulorum  
uncias duas,  
Zingiberis Radicis uncias dimi-  
diam;

Separatim in pulverem subtilissimum  
tere; dein misce.

*Compound Powder of Scammony.*

Take of Scammony Gum-resin,  
Hard Extract of Jalap, of each  
two ounces,  
Ginger Root, half an ounce;

Reduce them separately to very fine  
powder; and then mix.

This powder is sometimes prescribed as a purge, in the dose of from ten to twenty grains, but is not a convenient form. The addition of a grain of calomel to five of the powder renders it something like the old *pulvis basilicus*, a good active purge for children.—(See *Scammoneæ Gummi-resina*, in the *Materia Medica*.)

*Pulvis Sennæ Composi-  
tus.*

R Sennæ Foliorum,  
Potassæ Supertartratis, singulorum  
uncias duas,  
Scammoneæ Gummi-resinæ unciam  
dimidiam,  
Zingiberis Radicis drachmas duas;

Scammoneæ Gummi-resinam per se,  
cætera simul, in pulverem subtilissi-  
mum tere; tum misce.

*Compound Powder of Senna.*

Take of Senna Leaves,  
Supertartrate of Potassa, of  
each two ounces,  
Scammony Gum-resin, half an  
ounce,  
Ginger Root, two drachms;

Reduce the Scammony Gum-resin  
separately, and the rest together, to  
very fine powder; then mix.

This powder presents an ill-assorted mixture of aperients, and is bulky and inconvenient to administer. It is probably intended as a hydragogue cathartic for dropsical cases. The average dose is about half a drachm.

*Pulvis Tragacanthæ  
Compositus.*

R Tragacanthæ contritæ,  
Acaciæ Gummi contriti,  
Amyli, singulorum unciam cum se-  
misse.  
Sacchari purificati uncias tres;

*Compound Powder of Tragacanth.*

Take of Tragacanth in powder,  
Gum Arabic in powder,  
Starch, of each an ounce and  
half,  
Refined Sugar, three ounces;

Amylum et Saccharum simul in pulverem tere; tum, adjectis Tragacanthâ et Acaciæ Gummi, omnia misce.

Grind the Starch and Sugar together; then having added the Tragacanth and Gum Arabic, mix them all.

This powder is chiefly useful as a vehicle for more active remedies. It is given in febrile affections, with nitre; in dysentery, with small doses of ipecacuanha; and in renal and calculous irritation, with opium and other sedatives. It is properly prescribed as a glutinous vehicle for calomel and other heavy insoluble powders.

### PILLS.

Pills are an eligible form for those remedies which are very active in small doses, and insoluble or difficultly soluble in water, or which are very nauseous to the palate, but they should almost always be left to extemporaneous prescription, for the masses as directed in the Pharmacopœia, if originally of a proper consistence, soon become too hard, or undergo other changes which render them unfit for use.

Pills are generally strewed over with starch, magnesia, liquorice powder, or lycopodium, to prevent their adhesion; and these powders, or the external application of gold or silver leaf, render those which are nauseous less apt to be tasted in the act of their deglutition.

With one or two exceptions, pills should be excluded from the formulæ of a Pharmacopœia, and left entirely to extemporaneous prescription; or their ingredients should be kept in the form of powder, and made into a mass at the time they are required for use.

When too long kept, most pills are apt to become very hard, and proportionately difficult of solubility in the stomach; so that in this way very active remedies may lose their efficacy, or become so indurated as in some cases to be voided with little alteration, after having passed the stomach and bowels. Soap, soluble saline substances, and sugar, are the best additions to obviate such source of their inactivity.

### *Pilulæ Aloës Compositæ. Compound Pills of Aloes.*

R Aloës spicatæ Extracti contriti  
unciam,  
Extracti Gentianæ unciam dimi-  
diam,

Take of Extract of spiked Aloe in  
powder, an ounce,  
Extract of Gentian half an  
ounce,



Olei Carui minima quadraginta,  
Syrupi simplicis quantum satis sit;

Simul contunde donec corpus unum sit.

Oil of Caraway, forty minims,  
Simple Syrup, a sufficient quantity.

Beat them together until incorporated.

Aloes, combined with bitters and aromatics, is often resorted to in habitual costiveness and some forms of dyspepsia: the above pill is apt to be too soft to retain its form, otherwise the combination is good. From 5 to 20 grains is a dose: two pills of 5 grains each, taken two hours before dinner, generally evacuate the bowels once or twice in the evening or following morning.

### *Pilulæ Aloës cum Myrrha. Pills of Aloes with Myrrh.*

R Aloës spicatæ Extracti uncias duas,

Croci Stigmatum,  
Myrrhæ, singulorum unciam,  
Syrupi simplicis quantum satis sit;

Aloës Extractum et Myrrham separatim in pulverem tere; tum omnia simul contunde donec corpus unum sit.

Take of Extract of spiked Aloe, two ounces,

Saffron,  
Myrrh, of each an ounce,  
Simple Syrup, a sufficient quantity;

Reduce the Extract and the Myrrh separately to powder; then beat the whole together until incorporated.

These pills have long had a place in the different Pharmacopœiæ, under the name of *Pilulæ Rufi*. The saffron is useless, except, perhaps, as dividing the other ingredients; but the mixture of myrrh and aloes affords a good purge in chlorotic and leucophlegmatic habits. Two or three pills of 5 grains each may be taken twice or thrice daily, and the mass is frequently conjoined with the sulphate or some other preparation of iron.

### *Pilulæ Cambogiæ Compositæ.*

R Cambogiæ contritæ drachmam,  
Aloës spicatæ Extracti contriti  
drachmam cum semisse,  
Zingiberis drachmam dimidiam,

Saponis duri drachmas duas;

Misce inter se pulveres; dein, adjecto Sapone, omnia simul contunde donec corpus unum sit,

### *Compound Pills of Camboge.*

Take of Camboge in powder a drachm,  
Extract of spiked Aloe in  
powder, a drachm and a half,  
Ginger in powder, half a  
drachm,

Hard Soap, two drachms;

Mix the powders together; then, having added the Soap, beat the whole together until incorporated.

The combination of the readily soluble gamboge with the less soluble aloes is by some supposed to render the former more slow and mild in its action: be this as it may, these pills are effectively and often drastically purgative, in the dose of 10 or 15 grains. They are occasionally conjoined with other cathartics, with calomel, for instance, and with compound extract of colocynth, but gamboge is always apt to nauseate, and rarely prescribed except as a hydragogue.

*Pilulæ Ferri Compositæ. Compound Pills of Iron.*

R Myrrhæ contritæ drachmas duas,

Sodæ Subcarbonatis,  
Ferri Sulphatis,  
Sacchari, singulorum drachmam;

Tere Myrrham cum Sodæ Subcarbonate; tum, adjectâ Ferri Sulphate, iterum tere; dein omnia simul contunde, donec corpus unum sit.

Take of Myrrh in powder, two drachms.

Subcarbonate of Soda,  
Sulphate of Iron,  
Sugar, of each a drachm;

Rub the Myrrh with the Subcarbonate of Soda; then, having added the Sulphate of Iron, rub the mixture again, and beat the whole together until incorporated.

These pills are tonic and emmenagogue; they may be given in the dose of 10 or 15 grains two or three times a day with any bitter infusion; they are a solid substitute for the *mistura ferri composita*, but the latter is a preferable chalybeate: a corresponding preparation with the addition of aloes will be found at page 152; and other formulæ for the administration of chalybeates in the shape of pills will be found at pages 304 and 305. The general account of iron under the article "Ferrum," in the *Materia Medica*, may also here be referred to.

*Pilulæ Galbani Compositæ. Compound Galbanum Pills.*

R Galbani Gummi-resinæ unciam,

Myrrhæ,  
Sagapeni, singulorum unciam cum semisse,  
Assafœtidæ Gummi-resinæ unciam dimidiam,  
Syrupi simplicis quantum satis sit,

Simul contunde donec corpus unum sit.

Take of Galbanum Gum-resin, an ounce,

Myrrh,  
Sagapenum, of each an ounce and a half,  
Assafœtida Gum-resin, half an ounce,  
Simple Syrup, a sufficient quantity;

Beat them together till they are incorporated.



This combination of fetid gums is chiefly prescribed in hysteria and chlorosis, and sometimes in spasm or cramp of the stomach. When desirable to conjoin it with chalybeates, an equal part of the *pilulæ ferri compositæ* may be added, or, where aloetics are required, of the *pilulæ aloës cum myrrha*; but neither the galbanum nor the sagapenum are of much use. Ten grains of the pill, or of its mixtures, are divided into two pills, and given twice a day.

### *Pilulæ Hydrargyri.*

R Hydrargyri purificati drachmas  
duas,  
Confectionis Rosæ Gallicæ drach-  
mas tres,  
Glycyrrhizæ Radicis contritæ drach-  
mam ;

Hydrargyrum cum Confectione tere,  
donec globuli non ampliùs conspician-  
tur; deinde, adjectâ Glycyrrhizæ Ra-  
dice, omnia simul contunde donec cor-  
pus unum sit.

### *Mercurial Pills.*

Take of purified Mercury, two drachms,

Confection of Red Roses, three  
drachms,  
Liquorice Root in powder, a  
drachm ;

Rub the Mercury with the Confec-  
tion, until the globules are no longer  
visible; then, having added the Lique-  
rice Root, beat the whole together until  
incorporated.

Protoxide of mercury is the active ingredient in these pills, and they furnish a most valuable mercurial preparation. Of their general use and effects we have spoken above, under the article "*Hydrargyrum*," in the *Materia Medica* (see page 118); at page 132, one of the diuretic combinations of this remedy is prescribed; and at page 286 will be found one of its forms as an alterative; some further remarks respecting it are also given under the preparations of mercury (page 313).

Three grains of the above mass contain 1 grain of mercury, but the dose is extremely various, depending upon the required effect, and varies from half a grain to 20 grains.

In the manufacture of this pill, substances are occasionally added to accelerate the incorporation and oxidizement of the mercury; but these sophistications are invariably prejudicial, and tend to render the operation of the medicine variable and uncertain. At Apothecaries' Hall, a machine impelled by the steam-engine is employed for the purpose of triturating and blending the ingredients, consisting of a circular iron trough for the reception of the materials, in which revolve four wooden cylinders, having also a motion on their axes; in this way the admixture of the mercury is perfectly and unexceptionably effected.

*Pilulæ Hydrargyri Submuriatis Compositæ.*

R Hydrargyri Submuriatis,  
Antimonii Sulphureti præcipitati,  
singulorum drachmas duas,  
Guaiaci Gummi-resinæ contritæ semunciam,  
Spiritus rectificati drachmam dimidiam ;

Tere Hydrargyri Submuriatem cum Antimonii Sulphureto præcipitato, dein cum Guaiaci Gummi-resina, et adjice Spiritum, ut fiat idonea crassitudo.

*Compounds Pills of Submuriate of Mercury.*

Take of Submuriate of Mercury,  
Precipitated Sulphuret of Antimony, of each two drachms,  
Guaiacum Gum-resin in powder, half an ounce,  
Rectified Spirit, half a drachm ;

Rub the Submuriate of Mercury with the precipitated Sulphuret of Antimony, then with the Guaiacum, and add the Spirit, so as to obtain a proper consistency.

From 5 to 10 grains of these pills, originally introduced by Dr. Plummer, are occasionally given in cutaneous eruptions and chronic rheumatism as an alterative.

*Pilulæ Saponis cum Opio.*

R Opii duri contriti unciam dimidiam,  
  
Saponis duri uncias duas,  
  
Simul contunde donec corpus unum sit.

*Pills of Soap with Opium.*

Take of hard Opium in powder, half an ounce,  
Hard Soap, two ounces ;  
  
Beat them together until incorporated.

Five grains of this pill mass contain one grain of opium. The addition of the soap enables the pills, though long kept, to retain their solubility in the stomach ; and the formula is only useful under such circumstances, or where it is desired to subdivide the dose of opium into very small portions.

*Pilulæ Scillæ Compositæ.*

R Scillæ Radicis recens exsiccatae et contritæ drachmam,  
Zingiberis Radicis contritæ,  
Saponis duri, singulorum drachmas tres,  
Ammoniaci contriti drachmas duas ;

Misce inter se pulveres ; deinde cum Sapone contunde, et adjice Syrupi simplicis quantum satis sit, ut idonea fiat crassitudo.

*Compound Squill Pills.*

Take of Squill Root fresh dried and in powder, a drachm,  
Ginger Root in powder,  
Hard Soap, of each three drachms,  
Ammoniacum in powder, two drachms ;

Mix the powders ; then beat them with the Soap, and add as much simple Syrup as may be sufficient to give a proper consistency.



From 3 to 10 grains of this pill is given for a dose where stimulating expectorants are indicated, but the formula might, without inconvenience, have been left for extemporaneous prescription.

Four grains of the above pill, with half a grain of calomel, and half a grain of digitalis, is not unfrequently prescribed as a diuretic in dropsical affections; and it admits of a variety of other useful combinations.

I have not found this pill sensibly deteriorated by keeping for two years; but squill should always be used as freshly powdered as possible.

## PREPARATIONS OF ANIMAL SUBSTANCES.

The remarks upon the following preparations under their respective titles in the “Materia Medica,” render any further observations superfluous in this place. It may, however, be stated in respect to lard, that it frequently contains, in the state in which it is usually sold and employed, namely, run into bladders, so large a portion of salt as to be unfit for its pharmaceutical applications until it has been washed; and that its fusion, as well as that of suet, should be effected by the heat of a water-bath or of steam.

### *Adeps Præparata.*

Adipem in frustula concide; tum leni igne liquefactam per linteum exprime.

### *Cornu Ustum.*

Cornuum frusta igne aperto ure, donec penitus albescant; deinde contere, et præpara eodem modo, quo de Creta præceptum est.

### *Sevum Præparatum.*

Sevum in frustula concide, tum leni igne liquefactum per linteum exprime.

### *Spongia Usta.*

Spongiam in frustula concide, et con-

### *Prepared Lard.*

Cut the Lard into small pieces; and having melted it over a slow fire, press it through a linen cloth.

### *Calcined Hartshorn.*

Calcine pieces of hartshorn in an open fire, till they are thoroughly white; then rub them into powder, and prepare them in the manner directed for Chalk.

### *Prepared Suet.*

Cut the Suet into small pieces; then, having melted it over a slow fire, press it through a linen cloth.

### *Burnt Sponge.*

Cut the Sponge into small pieces, and

tunde, ut à rebus alienis adhærentibus separetur; tum in vase ferreo clauso ure, donec nigra et friabilis fiat; denique in pulverem subtilissimum tere,

beat it so as to separate from it adhering extraneous matters; then burn it in a covered iron vessel until it becomes black and friable; lastly, rub it to a very fine powder.

### *Testæ Præparatæ.*

Testas, sordibus priùs purgatas, aquâ fervente lava; tum præpara eodem modo, quo de Creta præceptum est.

### *Prepared Oyster Shells.*

Having freed the shells from extraneous matters, wash them with boiling water; then prepare them in the manner directed for Chalk.

## PLASTERS.

The term *plaster* is now applied to a variety of adhesive compounds limited to external use; they are generally spread, by the aid of heat, upon leather, linen, calico, or silk; and in this operation care should be taken that the compositions are injured as little as possible by the necessary application of heat.

Plasters are frequently resorted to as mere mechanical supports, and in this character they often effect most essential service; indeed, one of the greatest improvements in modern surgery consists in healing ulcers by the application of strips of adhesive plaster and bandages, so as to support the surrounding parts, and bring the edges of the sore gradually together.

Sometimes plasters are beneficial in consequence of the warmth which they afford as a mere covering to the part; and they are occasionally used as stimulants, rubefacients, and vesicants; and sometimes sedative substances are thus applied to allay pain and irritation, by their soothing effect upon the cuticular nerves.

### *Emplastrum Ammoniaci.*

R Ammoniaci purificati uncias quinque,  
Acidi acetici diluti octarium dimidium;

Liqua Ammoniacum in Acido; dein liquorem, in vase ferreo, balneo aquoso consume, assiduè movens, donec idonea fiat crassitudo.

### *Plaster of Ammoniacum.*

Take of purified Ammoniacum, five ounces,  
Diluted acetic Acid, half a pint;

Liquefy the Ammoniacum in the Acid; then evaporate the liquor in an iron vessel placed in a water-bath, constantly stirring until it acquires a proper consistency.



This plaster is sometimes applied to indolent tumours as a stimulant and discutient, and used in the manner mentioned under the head “*Ammoniacum*,” in the *Materia Medica*: by employing strong acetic acid, diluted with its bulk of water, instead of the weaker distilled vinegar, a more effective application as a stimulant and a more adhesive plaster is obtained. It is best applied upon coarse and thick linen.

*Emplastrum Ammoniaci  
cum Hydrargyro.*

R Ammoniaci purificati libram,  
Hydrargyri purificati uncias tres,  
Olei sulphurati fluidrachmam;

Hydrargyrum cum Oleo sulphurato  
tere, donec globuli non ampliùs conspi-  
ciantur; deinde paulatim adjice Am-  
moniacum liquefactum, et omnia misce.

*Plaster of Ammoniacum  
with Mercury.*

Take of purified Ammoniacum, a pound,  
Purified Mercury, three ounces,  
Sulphurated Oil, a fluidrachm;

Rub the Mercury with the sulphu-  
rated Oil, until globules are no longer  
visible; then, by degrees, add the  
melted Ammoniacum, and mix.

The mercury contained in this plaster is supposed to in-  
crease its power of stimulating the absorbent vessels. It is  
commonly resorted to in cases of indolent glandular tumours,  
and is spread upon leather.

*Emplastrum Cantharidis.*

R Cantharidis in pulverem subtilissi-  
mum tritæ libram,  
Emplastri Cerae libram cum se-  
misse,  
Adipis præparatæ libram dimidiam;

Emplastro et Adipi simul liquefactis,  
et ab igne remotis, paulo antequam  
concrecant, Cantharidem insperge, at-  
que omnia misce.

*Plaster of Spanish Flies.*

Take of Spanish Flies in very fine  
powder, a pound,  
Wax Plaster, a pound and a  
half,  
Prepared Lard, half a pound;

Having melted the Plaster and the  
Lard together, and removed them from  
the fire, just before they concrete,  
sprinkle in the Spanish Flies, and mix.

The uses of this plaster, and the best modes of applying it,  
have already been discussed under the article “*Cantharides*,”  
in the *Materia Medica*. It is generally spread upon leather,  
and should not be too thickly laid on. It is curious that when  
the flies are very finely powdered, the plaster is less effective in  
raising a blister than when in a coarser state. It may be kept  
for many years without any loss of power.

*Emplastrum Ceræ.*

R Ceræ flavæ,  
Sevi præparati, singulorum libras  
tres,  
Resinæ flavæ libram;  
Liquefac simul, et cola.

*Wax Plaster.*

Take of yellow Wax,  
Prepared Suet, of each three  
pounds,  
Yellow Resin, a pound;  
Melt them together, and strain.

Very thinly spread upon fine linen, or thin calico, this plaster furnishes a good application to vesicated surfaces, with a view of preventing external friction, and suffering the part to heal. It is scarcely otherwise employed.

*Emplastrum Cumini.*

R Cumini Seminum,  
Carui Seminum,  
Lauri Baccarum, singulorum uncias  
tres,  
Picis Abietinæ libras tres,  
Ceræ flavæ uncias tres,  
Olivæ Olei,  
Aquæ, singulorum fluidunciam cum  
semisse;

Pici et Ceræ simul liquefactis arida  
in pulverem trita, Oleum Olivæ, et  
Aquam adjice; tum ad idoneam crassi-  
tudinem decoque.

*Cumin Plaster.*

Take of Cumin Seeds,  
Caraway Seeds,  
Bay Berries, of each three  
ounces,  
Burgundy Pitch, three pounds,  
Yellow Wax, three ounces,  
Olive Oil,  
Water, of each an ounce and a  
half;

Having melted the Pitch and Wax  
together, add the dry materials re-  
duced to powder, and then the Olive  
Oil and the Water; lastly, evaporate  
until the whole acquires a proper con-  
sistence.

This plaster is a relic of the old school, and is sometimes applied, spread upon leather, to the region of the stomach and to the abdomen, to allay spasm and flatulency. Where mere warmth is required, it may possibly prove of some little use; but plasters are now rarely applied with such intentions, and if the essential oils and other warm carminatives possess any efficacy in this way, it is merely as external stimulants.

*Emplastrum Galbani  
Compositum.*

R Galbani Gummi-resinæ purificatæ  
uncias octo,

*Compound Galbanum  
Plaster.*

Take of purified Galbanum Gum-resin,  
eight ounces,

2 K



Emplastri Plumbi libras tres,  
Terebinthinæ vulgaris drachmas  
decem,  
Abietis Resinæ contritæ uncias  
tres,

Galbani Gummi-resinæ et Terebin-  
thinæ simul liquefactis, adjice primò  
Abietis Resinam, deinde Emplastrum  
Plumbi lento igne liquefactum, atque  
omnia misce.

No specific virtue can be supposed to be imparted to this plaster by the galbanum.

Lead Plaster, three pounds,  
Common Turpentine, ten  
drachms,  
Resin of the Spruce Fir in  
powder, three ounces;

Having melted together the Gal-  
banum and the Turpentine, add first  
the Resin and then the Lead Plaster,  
previously melted by a gentle heat, and  
mix all together.

### *Emplastrum Hydrargyri.*

℞ Hydrargyri purificati uncias tres,

Olei sulphurati fluidrachmam,

Emplastri Plumbi libram;

Hydrargyrum cum Oleo sulphurato  
tere, donec globuli non ampliùs con-  
spiciantur; tum paulatim adjice Em-  
plastrum Plumbi liquefactum, atque  
omnia misce.

These sulphuretted combinations of mercury are probably of very little avail as external applications; and although the above plaster is thought to derive some discutient efficacy over the absorbents from its metallic ingredient, its power in those respects is very doubtful. It is applied, upon linen or leather, to tumours and indurations supposed to be connected with syphilis.

### *Plaster of Mercury.*

Take of purified Mercury, three  
ounces,  
Sulphurated Oil, . . . . a  
fluidrachm,  
Lead Plaster, a pound;

Rub the Mercury with the sulphu-  
rated Oil until globules are no longer  
visible; then add, by degrees, the  
melted Plaster of Lead, and mix them  
all.

### *Emplastrum Opii.*

℞ Opii duri contriti unciam dimi-  
diam,

Abietis Resinæ contritæ uncias  
tres,

Emplastri Plumbi libram,

Aquæ octarium dimidium;

Emplastro liquefacto Abietis Re-  
sinam, Opium, et Aquam adjice, et  
lento igne decoque, donec omnia in  
emplastri crassitudinem coëant.

### *Plaster of Opium.*

Take of hard Opium in powder, half an  
ounce,  
Resin of the Spruce Fir in  
powder, three ounces,  
Lead Plaster, a pound,  
Water, half a pint;

To the melted Plaster add the  
Resin, the Opium, and the Water,  
and evaporate by a slow fire until the  
whole combines into the consistency of  
a plaster.

As an external application, the uses of opium have already been adverted to at page 163, and sometimes the above plaster seems to act as a gentle anodyne, but its virtues are very equivocal. In cases where such applications are required, henbane or belladonna furnish less exceptionable resources, especially the latter.—(See page 48.)

### *Emplastrum Picis Compositum.*

R Picis Abietinæ libras duas,  
Abietis Resinæ libram,  
  
Resinæ flavæ,  
Ceræ flavæ, singulorum uncias quatuor,  
Myristicæ Olei expressi unciam,  
  
Olivæ Olei,  
Aquæ, singulorum fluiduncias duas ;

Pici, Resinæ, et Ceræ, simul liquefactis, primum Abietis Resinam, dein Oleum Myristicæ, Oleum Olivæ, et Aquam adjice. Denique omnia misce, et ad idoneam crassitudinem decoque.

### *Compound Plaster of Pitch.*

Take of Burgundy Pitch, two pounds,  
Resin of the Spruce Fir, a pound,  
Yellow Resin,  
Yellow Wax, of each four ounces,  
Expressed Oil of Nutmegs, an ounce,  
Olive Oil,  
Water, of each two fluid-ounces ;

To the Pitch, the Resin, and the Wax melted together, add first the Resin of the Spruce Fir, then the Oil of Nutmegs, the Olive Oil, and the Water. Lastly, mix them all, and evaporate until they acquire a proper consistency.

The multitude of resins in this plaster is of little avail ; it is no better than wax plaster with the addition of oil of nutmeg, which confers upon it no efficacy.

### *Emplastrum Plumbi.*

R Plumbi Oxydi semivitrei, in pulverem subtilissimum triti, libras quinque,  
Olivæ Olei congiūm,  
Aquæ octarios duos ;

Coque simul lento igne, assidue movens, donec Oleum et Plumbi Oxydem in emplastri crassitudinem

### *Plaster of Lead.*

Take of semi-vitreous Oxide of Lead in very fine powder, five pounds,  
Olive Oil, a gallon,  
Water, two pints ;

Boil them together over a gentle fire, constantly stirring them, until the Oil and Oxide of Lead unite so as to



coëant. Oportebit autem paululum Aquæ ferventis adjicere, si ea ferè omnis, quæ in principio adhibita est, ante finem coctionis fuerit absumpta.

acquire the consistency of a plaster. If the water originally employed should have evaporated before the completion of the process, a little more boiling water must be added.

Water is added in this operation to keep down the temperature by its evaporation, and so to prevent any decomposition of the oil and of the oxide. The resulting plaster is a perfect combination of the three; a species of hydrated metallic soap. It is principally useful as the basis of, or as an adjunct to, other plasters, not having sufficient adhesiveness to be employed alone. It is the *Diachylon Simplex* of old pharmacy.

### *Emplastrum Resinæ.*

R Resinæ flavæ libram dimidiam,  
Emplastri Plumbi libras tres;  
Emplastro Plumbi, lento igne liquefacto, Resinam contritam adjice, et misce.

### *Plaster of Resin.*

Take of yellow Resin, half a pound,  
Plaster of Lead, three pounds;  
To the Plaster of Lead, melted over a slow fire, add the Resin in powder, and mix.

This is common *adhesive plaster*, and is generally spread on linen or calico; the former, on account of its strength, being, perhaps, preferable where the plaster is chiefly required as a bandage, though it is more apt to peel off than when upon calico. It is frequently employed to form a margin to other plasters of a less adhesive nature. The only effect it produces is that of a gentle stimulant, which, however, does not interfere with its uses as a defensive and supporting application.

### *Emplastrum Saponis.*

R Saponis duri concisi libram dimidiam,  
Emplastri Plumbi libras tres;  
Emplastro liquefacto Saponem admisce; tum ad idoneam crassitudinem decoque.

### *Soap Plaster.*

Take of hard Soap sliced, half a pound,  
Plaster of Lead, three pounds;  
Mix the Soap with the melted Plaster; then boil them down till they acquire a proper consistence.

There is no sufficient advantage derived from this addition of soap to common plaster, to justify its being retained in the Pharmacopœia; and when such a plaster is wanted, it may be left to extemporaneous prescription.

## CERATES.

These are compounds, containing wax and oil, of a soft consistency, so as to admit of being spread upon lint or linen without the aid of heat, yet not so soft as *ointments*. They are chiefly employed as applications to ulcerating and abraded surfaces, and were formerly used in much greater variety than at present, when it was more the custom to employ greasy applications in healing sores, and in the treatment of burns and other injuries.

Both the cerates and ointments, but especially the latter, should have been left, as far as possible, to extemporaneous prescription, for they mostly become rancid and sour when kept, acquiring a very disagreeable smell, and with it new properties. The list of them in the present Pharmacopœia is unnecessarily numerous; and accordingly those which are not in constant use almost always occur in a rancid state. All dressings with cerates or ointments should be renewed at least once a day, and in many cases oftener.

*Ceratum Calaminæ.*

R Calaminæ præparatæ,  
Ceræ flavæ, singulorum libram dimidiam,  
Olivæ Olei octarium;  
  
Oleum cum Cera liquefacta misce; tum ab igne remove, et ubi primum lutescant Calaminam adjice, et assidue move, donec refrigerint.

*Cerate of Calamine.*

Take of prepared Calamine,  
Yellow Wax, of each half a pound,  
Olive Oil, a pint;  
  
Mix the Oil with the melted Wax; then remove them from the fire, and when they begin to thicken add the Calamine, and stir constantly until they cool.

This is the once celebrated *Turner's Cerate*, so frequently resorted to as a soothing application to irritable sores and to scalded or burnt surfaces. It has now much fallen into disuse; and indeed in the form of ointment, calamine cannot have much efficacy: of its occasional value in the treatment of ulcers, we have spoken at page 52.



*Ceratum Cantharidis.*

℞ Cantharidis in pulverem subtilissimum tritæ drachmam,  
Cerati Cetacei drachmas sex ;

Cerato, igne emollito, Cantharidem adjice, et misce.

*Cerate of Spanish Flies.*

Take of Spanish Flies in very fine powder, a drachm,  
Spermaceti Cerate, six drachms ;

To the Cerate, softened by the fire, add the Flies, and mix.

The chief intention of this cerate is to keep up a continued discharge from a blistered surface ; but it is apt to occasion strangury and other mischief, especially where the urinary organs are liable to any occasional state of irritation : in general, therefore, other stimulating applications should be preferred.

*Ceratum Cetacei.*

℞ Cetacei unciam dimidiam,  
Ceræ albæ uncias duas,  
Olivæ Olei fluiduncias quatuor ;

Cetaceo et Ceræ simul liquefactis Oleum adjice, et spathâ ligneâ move, donec refrigerint.

*Spermaceti Cerate.*

Take of Spermaceti, half an ounce,  
White Wax, two ounces,  
Olive Oil, four fluidounces ;

To the Spermaceti and Wax, melted together, add the Oil, and stir them with a wooden spatula until cold.

This is employed, spread upon lint, as a cooling inactive dressing. Spread upon fine calico, and held to the fire so as to melt it, it is sometimes used to dress blisters with, under the name of *sparadrap*.

*Ceratum Plumbi Acetatis.*

℞ Plumbi Acetatis contritæ drachmas duas,  
Ceræ albæ uncias duas,  
Olivæ Olei octarium dimidium ;

Ceram in Olei fluidunciis septem liqua ; tum his adjice paulatim Plumbi Acetatem, cum reliquo Oleo separatim contritam, et spathâ ligneâ move, donec coërint.

*Cerate of Acetate of Lead.*

Take of Acetate of Lead in powder, two drachms,  
White Wax, two ounces,  
Olive Oil, half a pint ;

Dissolve the Wax in seven fluidounces of the Oil ; to these add, by degrees, the Acetate of Lead previously rubbed with the rest of the Oil, and stir with a wooden spatula until they are incorporated.

Acetate of lead thus applied in the form of a cerate soothes excoriated surfaces, and allays the pain occasioned by mode-

rate burns and scalds; but there is some mutual action of the oil upon the salt, which renders it less effective when long kept.

### *Ceratum Plumbi Compositum.*

R Liquoris Plumbi Subacetatis fluid-  
uncias duas cum semisse,  
Ceræ flavæ uncias quatuor,  
Olivæ Olei fluiduncias novem,  
Camphoræ drachmam dimidiam;

Ceram liquefactam cum Olei fluid-  
unciis octo misce; tum ab igne remove,  
et ubi primùm lentescant, Liquorem  
Plumbi Subacetatis paulatim adjice, et  
assiduè move spathâ ligneâ, donec  
refruxerint: denique cum his Cam-  
phoram, in reliquo Oleo liquatam,  
misce.

### *Compound Lead Cerate.*

Take of Solution of Subacetate of Lead,  
two fluidounces and a half,  
Yellow Wax, four ounces,  
Olive Oil, nine fluidounces,  
Camphor, half a drachm;

Mix the melted Wax with eight  
fluidounces of the Oil; then remove  
them from the fire, and when they  
begin to thicken gradually add the  
Solution of Subacetate of Lead, con-  
stantly stirring them with a wooden  
spatula until they become cold; lastly,  
mix the Camphor with them, dissolved  
in the remainder of the Oil.

Under the name of *Goulard's Cerate*, an application of this kind has long been used in the same cases as the preceding preparation. The camphor is not, in most cases, a desirable addition; and an extemporaneous compound, made by adding a few drops of the solution of subacetate of lead to spermaceti ointment, may always be used as a substitute.

### *Ceratum Resinæ.*

R Resinæ flavæ,  
Ceræ flavæ, singulorum libram,  
Olivæ Olei octarium;

Resinam et Ceram lento igne simul  
liquefac; dein Oleum adjice, et Cera-  
tum adhuc calens per linteam exprime.

### *Resin Cerate.*

Take of Yellow Resin,  
Yellow Wax, of each a pound,  
Olive Oil, a pint;

Melt the Resin and Wax together  
over a gentle fire; then add the Oil,  
and whilst the Cerate is hot, strain it  
through linen.

This is a slightly stimulating cerate, nearly corresponding with the *yellow digestive* of old pharmacy. It is commonly used as a dressing for ulcerating sores.



*Ceratum Sabinæ.*

R Sabinæ Foliorum recentium contusorum libram,  
 Ceræ flavæ libram dimidiam,  
 Adipis præparatæ libras duas;  
 Adipi et Ceræ simul liquefactis Sabinæ Folia incoque; tum per linteum exprime.

*Savine Cerate.*

Take of fresh Savine Leaves bruised,  
 a pound,  
 Yellow Wax, half a pound,  
 Prepared Lard, two pounds;  
 With the Wax and Lard melted together boil the Savine Leaves, then strain through a linen cloth.

This is an excellent stimulating application for the purpose of keeping up a discharge from a recently blistered surface; but unless carefully prepared, and fresh, it is apt to be deficient in acrimony. It should be of a pale yellow-green colour, and smell strongly of the savine.

*Ceratum Saponis.*

R Saponis duri uncias octo,  
 Ceræ flavæ uncias decem,  
 Plumbi Oxydi semivitrei contriti libram,  
 Olivæ Olei octarium,  
 Aceti congiū;

Coque Acetum cum Plumbi Oxydo, lento igne, assiduè movens, donec in unum coëant; dein adjice Saponem, et iterum simili modo coque, donec humor penitus consumptus fuerit; denique cum his Ceram, ex Oleo prius liquefactam, misce.

*Soap Cerate.*

Take of hard Soap, eight ounces,  
 Yellow Wax, ten ounces,  
 Semivitreous Oxide of Lead in powder, a pound,  
 Olive Oil, a pint,  
 Vinegar, a gallon;

Boil the Vinegar with the Oxide of Lead over a slow fire, constantly stirring them until they incorporate; then add the Soap and boil again in a similar manner till the moisture is evaporated; lastly, mix these with the Wax previously dissolved in the Oil.

Soap cerate derives its efficacy from the acetate of lead formed by boiling the litharge with the vinegar; it is a good cooling application, and when hardened by boiling it for some time, so as to render it of a deep chocolate brown colour, it forms an excellent plaster, spread upon linen, and rendered somewhat more adhesive by the addition of a sufficient quantity of the *emplastrum resinæ*. It is one of the best soothing and softening applications to corns.

*Ceratum Simplex.*

R Olivæ Olei fluiduncias quatuor,  
 Ceræ flavæ uncias quatuor;  
 Ceræ liquefactæ Oleum adjice, et misce.

*Simple Cerate.*

Take of Olive Oil, four fluidounces,  
 Yellow Wax, four ounces;  
 Add the Oil to the melted Wax, and mix.

Spermaceti cerate renders this a supernumerary ; it is, however, less inclined to rancidity, and a good vehicle for some active applications.

## OINTMENTS.

Ointments are of a softer consistency, and even more liable to become rancid than cerates, and wholly unfit for use when long kept. Most of them should, for this reason, have been consigned to extemporaneous prescription.

### *Unguentum Cantharidis. Ointment of Spanish Flies.*

R Cantharidis in pulverem subtilissimum contritæ uncias duas,  
Aquæ destillatæ fluiduncias octo,

Cerati Resinæ uncias octo ;

Aquam cum Cantharide decoque ad dimidium, et cola. Liquori colato immisce Ceratum ; dein vaporet ad idoneam crassitudinem.

Take of Spanish Flies in very fine powder, two ounces,  
Distilled Water, eight fluid-ounces,  
Resin Cerate, eight ounces;

Boil down the Water with the Spanish Flies to one half, and strain. Mix the Cerate with the strained liquor, and evaporate the mixture until it acquires a proper consistence.

The object of this ointment is to furnish a mildly stimulating application to continue the discharge from blisters, without producing the well-known inconveniences of applying the fly in the form of powder : the application is, however, not to be depended upon, for much of the acrimony of the insect appears to be destroyed by the process of decoction.

### *Unguentum Cetacei.*

R Cetacei drachmas sex,  
Ceræ albæ drachmas duas,  
Olivæ Olei fluiduncias tres;

Lento igne simul liquefacta assidue move donec refrixerint.

### *Spermaceti Ointment.*

Take of Spermaceti, six drachms,  
White Wax, two drachms,  
Olive Oil, three fluidounces ;

Melt them together over a slow fire, stirring them constantly until cold.

This ointment should always be freshly prepared, as, in warm weather especially, it soon becomes rancid, and unfit for use as a dressing for vesications and excoriated surfaces,



the purposes to which it is usually applied. A more elegant preparation is afforded by substituting almond for olive oil, but it is equally subject to rancidity.

### *Unguentum Elemi Compositum.*

R Elemi libram,  
Terebinthinæ vulgaris uncias decem,  
Sevi præparati libras duas,  
Olivæ Olei fluiduncias duas;

Elemi cum Sevo simul liquefac; tum ab igne remove, et his Terebinthinam et Oleum statim misce; deinde per linteam exprime.

### *Compound Elemi Ointment.*

Take of Elemi, a pound,  
Common Turpentine, ten ounces,  
Prepared Suet, two pounds,  
Olive Oil, two fluidounces;

Melt the Elemi with the Suet, then remove them from the fire, and immediately mix with them the Turpentine and the Oil; lastly, strain through linen.

The compound elemi ointment is the yellow basilicon of old pharmacy: it is used as a slightly stimulating application to issues and setons, and to healthy purulent surfaces, to promote their natural actions.

### *Unguentum Hydrargyri Fortius.*

R Hydrargyri purificati libras duas,  
Adipis præparatæ uncias vigintitres,  
Sevi præparati unciam;

Tere primum Hydrargyrum cum Sevo et exiguo Adipis, donec globuli non amplius conspiciantur; dein adjice Adipis quod reliquum est, et misce.

### *Strong Mercurial Ointment.*

Take of purified Mercury, two pounds,  
Prepared Lard, twenty-three ounces,  
Prepared Suet, an ounce;

First rub the Mercury with the Suet and a little of the Lard, until globules are no longer visible; then add the remainder of the Lard, and mix.

Turpentine, sulphur, very rancid lard, and some other substances, are occasionally, but improperly, employed in this important preparation, to facilitate the disappearance of the mercury. It is often, in warm weather especially, extremely difficult to incorporate the materials, but it unfortunately happens that any of the above surreptitious additions render the ointment irritating to the skin, and induce it to the production of an eruption of small and painful pimples, which not unfrequently interfere with the continuance of the mercur-

rial frictions. The apparatus mentioned under the article *Pilula Hydrargyri* is very successfully employed in the formation of this ointment.

Recently made mercurial ointment is of a bluish-grey colour; and there can be little doubt that the metal in it is chiefly in the state of protoxide. It is doubtful whether any advantage is gained by substituting the protoxide for metallic mercury in this compound, as has sometimes been proposed. The subject, however, deserves more attentive experimental investigation than it has as yet received. (See Mr. Donovan's remarks upon these combinations in the *Annals of Philosophy* for November, 1819.)

It is frequently necessary to introduce mercury into the system through the medium of the superficial absorbents, and this is almost invariably effected by rubbing in from one to two drachms of the above ointment, every night, upon the inside of the thighs and upon the calves of the legs: its consequences must be carefully watched, and the quantity and repetition of the friction adjusted according to the salivation or other effects which are produced. Upon these subjects, and upon the general management of the patient, the reader is referred to the article "*Hydrargyrum*," in the list of the *Materia Medica*. The inunction should be performed by the patient himself, in a warm room or before the fire, till the ointment nearly disappears; and in case of irritation or eruption upon the skin, the place of friction should be varied. If the ointment fails of producing the desired effect, two or three grains of camphor added to each drachm will sometimes excite the absorbents to its reception. Mercurial frictions are rarely prescribed except in the venereal disease, in obstinate hepatic obstructions, and in some dropsical affections, with a view to the general excitement of the absorbent system. A slight course of mercurial inunction is also often resorted to in conjunction with alterative remedies, especially in those cases where sarsaparilla is prescribed.

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*Unguentum Hydrargyri Mitius.*      *Mild Mercurial Ointment.*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| R Unguenti Hydrargyri fortioris li-<br>bram,<br>Adipis præparatæ libras duas;<br>Misce. | Take of strong Mercurial Ointment, a<br>pound,<br>Prepared Lard, two pounds;<br>Mix. |
|---|--|



Syphilitic sores are sometimes dressed with this ointment, but the formula is superfluous.

*Unguentum Hydrargyri  
Nitratis.*

℞ Hydrargyri purificati unciam,  
Acidi nitrici fluidrachmas undecim,  
Adipis præparatæ uncias sex,  
Olivæ Olei fluiduncias quatuor ;

Hydrargyrum in Acido primum  
liqua ; dein liquorem adhuc calentem  
cum Adipe et Oleo, simul liquefactis,  
misce.

*Ointment of Nitrate of  
Mercury.*

Take of purified Mercury, an ounce,  
Nitric Acid, eleven fluidrachms,  
Prepared Lard, six ounces,  
Olive Oil, four fluidounces ;

First dissolve the Mercury in the  
Acid ; then, while the solution is hot,  
mix it with the Lard and Oil melted  
together.

This ointment is apt to become hard and brittle, in consequence of the action of the acid upon the lard ; and a preferable compound is obtained when only half the quantity of that ingredient above prescribed is employed. It is a stimulating detergent ointment, singularly effective in many cutaneous eruptions, and often usefully applied to indolent sores. When diluted with spermaceti ointment or with prepared lard, the substances should be carefully liquefied in a water-bath. It is very successfully employed in the cure of purulent ophthalmia, and in the treatment of ulcerated eyelids, to which it should be applied, previously softened, upon a camel-hair pencil.

*Unguentum Hydrargyri  
Nitrico-Oxydi.*

℞ Hydrargyri Nitrico-oxydi unciam,

Ceræ albæ uncias duas,  
Adipis præparatæ uncias sex ;

Ceræ et Adipi, simul liquefactis,  
adjice Hydrargyri Nitrico-oxydum in  
pulverem subtilissimum tritum, et misce.

*Ointment of Nitrico-Oxide  
of Mercury.*

Take of Nitrico-oxide of Mercury, an  
ounce,

White Wax, two ounces,  
Prepared Lard, six ounces ;

To the Wax and Lard, melted to-  
gether, add the Nitrico-oxide of Mer-  
cury, reduced to a very subtile powder,  
and mix.

This ointment has already been mentioned at page 315 : it is a powerful stimulant, and, independent of its application as such to indolent and unkindly ulcers and excoriations, is of use in conjunctival inflammation and opacity of the cornea. The utmost attention should be paid to the levigation of the nitrico-oxide. It is generally applied upon a piece of lint of the size of the sore, covered by another piece spread with spermaceti ointment.

*Unguentum Hydrargyri  
Præcipitati Albi.*

R Hydrargyri præcipitati albi drach-  
mam,  
Adipis præparatæ unciam cum se-  
mis; ;

Adipi, lento igne liquefactæ, adjice  
Hydrargyrum præcipitatum, et misce.

*Ointment of White Pre-  
cipitated Mercury.*

Take of White Precipitated Mercury,  
a drachm,  
Prepared Lard, an ounce and  
a half;

To the Lard, melted over a slow  
fire, add the precipitated Mercury, and  
mix.

There is no occasion for the fusion of the lard; the white precipitate should be rubbed to a very fine powder, and gradually mixed by trituration with the lard in its usual state. The ointment is often effectual in the relief of herpetic eruptions, and, when duly diluted with twice its weight of pomatum, may be employed to cure porrigo. It is very effective in the treatment of the itch, and in the destruction of vermin.

*Unguentum Picis Nigræ.*

R Picis Nigræ,  
Ceræ flavæ,  
Resinæ flavæ, singulorum uncias  
novem,  
Olivæ Olei octarium;

Liquefac simul, et per linteum ex-  
prime.

*Pitch Ointment.*

Take of Pitch,  
Yellow Wax,  
Yellow Resin, of each nine  
ounces,  
Olive Oil, a pint;

Melt them together, and strain  
through linen.

This is the least useful ointment of the Pharmacopœia.

*Unguentum Picis Liquidæ.*

R Picis Liquidæ,  
Sevi præparati, singulorum libram;  
Liquefac simul, et per linteum ex-  
prime.

*Tar Ointment.*

Take of Tar,  
Prepared Suet, of each a pound;  
Melt them together, and strain  
through a linen cloth.

*Tinea capitis* is almost the only disease in which this ointment is employed with any advantage; but it admits of other more effectual and less disagreeable treatment.



*Unguentum Sambuci.*

R Sambuci Florum,  
 Adipis præparatæ, singulorum li-  
 bras duas ;  
 Adipi incoque Sambuci Flores donec  
 friabiles fiant ; tum per linteum exprime.

*Elder Flower Ointment.*

Take of Elder Flowers,  
 Prepared Lard, of each two  
 pounds ;  
 Boil the Elder Flowers in the Lard  
 until they become crisp ; then strain  
 through linen.

This ointment seems retained to remind us of many analo-  
 gous preparations of herbs and flowers which were common in  
 ancient pharmacy.

*Unguentum Sulphuris.*

R Sulphuris sublimati uncias tres,  
 Adipis præparatæ libram dimidiam ;  
 Misce.

*Sulphur Ointment.*

Take of sublimed Sulphur, three ounces,  
 Prepared Lard, half a pound ;  
 Mix.

This is a specific in the cure of itch ; it is much improved  
 by the addition of oil of lavender, and a little cinnabar is some-  
 times added to it to cover the colour of the brimstone. The  
 following is a very effective application in the cure of *psora*,  
 and somewhat more elegant than the above :—

R Sulphuris Præcipitati ℥j.  
 Unguenti Cetacei ℥viij.  
 Olei Lavandulæ,  
 — Limonum, āā ℥j.  
 Tere simul ut fiat unguentum, partibus affectis nocte et mane  
 applicandum.

*Unguentum Sulphuris  
Compositum.*

R Sulphuris sublimati libram dimidiam,  
 Veratri Radicis contritæ uncias  
 duas,  
 Potassæ Nitratis drachmam,  
 Saponis mollis libram dimidiam,  
 Adipis præparatæ libram cum se-  
 misse ;  
 Misce.

*Compound Sulphur  
Ointment.*

Take of sublimed Sulphur, half a pound,  
 White Hellebore Root in pow-  
 der, two ounces,  
 Nitrate of Potassa, a drachm,  
 Soft Soap, half a pound,  
 Prepared Lard, a pound and a  
 half ;  
 Mix.

This is a coarse but effective application in the cure of itch, probably chiefly limited to hospital practice, for the white hellebore is apt to prove mischievously irritating. It is a sovereign destroyer of lice.

*Unguentum Veratri.*

R Veratri Radicis contritæ uncias duas,  
Adipis præparatæ uncias octo,  
Limonum Olei minima viginti;  
Misce.

*White Hellebore Ointment.*

Take of White Hellebore Root in powder, two ounces,  
Prepared Lard, eight ounces,  
Oil of Lemons, twenty minims;  
Mix.

When the smell of sulphur is very objectionable, this ointment is intended to be resorted to in the cure of scabies; but the *unguentum hydrargyri præcipitati albi* is, in such cases, a preferable substitute. At all events, white hellebore should be used with much circumspection, and never in the cases of children.

*Unguentum Zinci.*

R Zinci Oxydi unciam,  
Adipis præparatæ uncias sex;  
Misce.

*Zinc Ointment.*

Take of Oxide of Zinc, an ounce,  
Prepared Lard, six ounces;  
Mix.

The present mode of preparing oxide of zinc (see page 337) has much improved this ointment; it is, however, a compound of insufficient importance, and should have been left for extemporaneous prescription. It sometimes agrees well with the surface of sores, and tends to the healing of excoriated nipples, but, in the case of nurses, all applications likely to prove hurtful to the infant should, if possible, be superseded by innocuous stimulants and astringents, or by mechanical protection of the part.

## LINIMENTS.

These preparations are fluid, or nearly so, and generally of a stimulating nature, so as to excite irritation upon the part rubbed, and to promote the action of its absorbents. They are, with very few exceptions, of such a nature as to be better fitted for extemporaneous prescription than regular occupants of the *Pharmacopœia*.



*Linimentum Æruginis.*

R Æruginis contritæ unciam,  
Aceti fluiduncias septem,  
Mellis despumati uncias quatuordecim ;

Liqua Æruginem in Aceto, et per linteam cola ; dein, instillato Melle, ad idoneam crassitudinem decoque.

*Liniment of Verdigris.*

Take of Verdigris in powder, an ounce,  
Vinegar, seven fluidounces,  
Clarified Honey, fourteen ounces ;

Dissolve the Verdigris in the Vinegar, and strain the solution through linen ; then, having gradually added the Honey, boil them down to a proper consistence.

The term *liniment* is not very appropriately applied to this cupreous compound, the uses of which are mentioned at page 15.

*Linimentum Ammonia Fortius.*

R Liquoris Ammonia fluidunciam,  
Olivæ Olei fluiduncias duas ;  
Agita simul, donec misceantur.

*Strong Liniment of Ammonia.*

Take of Solution of Ammonia, a fluidounce,  
Olive Oil, two fluidounces ;  
Shake them together until they are mixed.

This is an ammoniacal soap, of much use as a rubefacient and external stimulant in inflammatory sore throat, and in chronic rheumatic affections of the joints.

*Linimentum Ammonia Subcarbonatis.*

R Liquoris Ammonia Subcarbonatis fluidunciam,  
Olivæ Olei fluiduncias tres ;  
Agita simul, donec misceantur.

*Liniment of Subcarbonate of Ammonia.*

Take of Solution of Subcarbonate of Ammonia, a fluidounce,  
Olive Oil, three fluidounces ;  
Shake them together until they unite.

This liniment is used in the same cases as the former, but is less active.

*Linimentum Camphoræ.*

R Camphoræ unciam dimidiam,  
Olivæ Olei fluiduncias duas ;  
Liqua Camphoram in Oleo.

*Camphor Liniment.*

Take of Camphor, half an ounce,  
Olive Oil, two fluidounces ;  
Dissolve the Camphor in the Oil.

An oleaginous solution of camphor is often very effectual in the relief of chronic rheumatism, when diligently rubbed in upon the affected part; similarly applied, it also occasionally leads to the dispersion of glandular tumours; the camphor may, no doubt, act as a stimulant upon the absorbents, but much of the benefit is referrible to the friction, which, in such cases, often alone does wonders. The above liniment is sometimes substituted with advantage for the pure olive oil in the *Linimentum Ammoniae Fortius*.

---

*Linimentum Camphoræ  
Compositum.*

R Camphoræ uncias duas,  
Liquoris Ammoniae fluiduncias sex,  
  
Spiritus Lavandulæ octarium;  
  
Liquorem Ammoniae cum Spiritu  
misce; tum ex retorta vitrea, lento  
igne, destillet octarius; denique in hoc  
liqua Camphoram.

*Compound Camphor  
Liniment.*

Take of Camphor, two ounces,  
Solution of Ammonia, six fluid-  
ounces,  
Spirit of Lavender, a pint;  
  
Mix the Solution of Ammonia with  
the Spirit; then, by the aid of a slow  
fire, distil one pint out of a glass retort;  
lastly, in this dissolve the Camphor.

This process, though unnecessarily circuitous, affords a very elegant and useful liniment, applicable in the same cases as the liniments of ammonia generally, but having the advantage of not being greasy: it may either be applied by friction or sprinkled upon flannel. Like all the stimulating liniments, it sometimes induces erysipelatous inflammation, which must of course be guarded against.

---

*Linimentum Hydrargyri.*

R Unguenti Hydrargyri fortioris,  
Adipis præparatæ, singulorum un-  
cias quatuor,  
Camphoræ unciam,  
Spiritus rectificati minima quindecim,  
Liquoris Ammoniae fluiduncias quatuor;  
  
Camphoram primum cum Spiritu  
tere, deinde cum Adipe et Unguento  
Hydrargyri; denique, instillato paulatim  
Liquore Ammoniae, omnia misce.

*Mercurial Liniment.*

Take of strong Mercurial Ointment,  
Prepared Lard, of each four  
ounces,  
Camphor, an ounce,  
Rectified Spirit, fifteen minims,  
  
Solution of Ammonia, four  
fluidounces;  
  
Rub the Camphor, first with the  
Spirit, then with the Lard and Ointment;  
lastly, gradually add the Solution of  
Ammonia, and mix.



This stimulating mercurial liniment will sometimes assist the removal of obstinate glandular tumours, especially those derived from venereal sources. In its employment, its tendency to excite salivation, which, in some constitutions, is extremely energetic, must not be lost sight of.

*Linimentum Saponis  
Compositum.*

*Compound Soap Liniment.*

R Saponis duri uncias tres,  
Camphoræ unciam,  
Spiritus Rosmarini octarium;

Liqua Camphoram in Spiritu; dein  
Saponem adjice, et macera balneo  
arenæ, donec liquetur.

Take of hard Soap, three ounces,  
Camphor, an ounce,  
Spirit of Rosemary, a pint;

Dissolve the Camphor in the Spirit;  
then add the Soap, and macerate them  
in a sand-bath, until it is dissolved.

This is an excellent liniment in all common rheumatic affections and local pains: the soap prevents its rapidly drying upon the part, the camphor and spirit stimulate, and the oil of rosemary gives it an agreeable odour. It is a good addition to other liniments; mixed with tincture of cantharides it is rendered more effectively stimulating and rubefacient; and with the addition of tincture of opium it forms one of the best sedative liniments.

In paralytic and chronic rheumatic cases, the following may be prescribed as a stimulating liniment:—

R Tincturæ Cantharidis,  
Linimenti Saponis compositi, aa f ʒj.  
Fiat linimentum rubefaciens.

Or,—

R Linimenti Camphoræ compositi,  
Linimenti Saponis compositi,  
Olei Cajuputi, aa f ʒj.  
Fiat linimentum stimulans.

The following are the usually prescribed sedative liniments:—

R Tincturæ Opii f ʒj.  
Linimenti Camphoræ compositi f ʒij.  
Fiat linimentum anodynum.

R Tincturæ Opii f ʒj.  
Linimenti Saponis compositi f ʒlij.  
M. ft. linimentum opiatum.

*Linimentum Terebinthinæ. Turpentine Liniment.*

℞ Cerati Resinæ libram,  
Olei Terebinthinæ octarium dimi-  
dium ;

Take of Resin Cerate, a pound,  
Oil of Turpentine, half a pint ;

Liquefacto Cerato Oleum Terebin-  
thinæ adjice, et misce.

Add the Oil of Turpentine to the  
melted Cerate, and mix.

The chief intention of this liniment is as an application to extensive burns and scalds (see page 336) ; but oil of turpentine is a good stimulant in other forms of prescription, and often appears to excite the absorbents and stimulate the nerves of a part, where other irritants fail : hence the occasional advantage of one or other of the following formulæ in paralytic affections and certain cases of rheumatism : these liniments should be well shaken when required for use :—

℞ Tincturæ Cantharidis,  
Olei Terebinthinæ rectificati,  
Linimenti Camphoræ, aa f℥j.

Fiat linimentum.

℞ Olei Terebinthinæ rectificati,  
Olei Olivæ,  
Liquoris Ammoniacæ,  
Tincturæ Opii,  
Linimenti Saponis compositi, aa f℥ss.

Fiat linimentum.

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## CATAPLASMS.

The preparation of poultices is generally the business of the nurse ; they are mostly intended to aid the natural functions of a part, by keeping it warm and moist ; or to soothe pain and allay irritation. Of the two following formulæ, the first is sometimes used to correct the fetid discharge of ill-conditioned ulcers : its efficacy is probably referrible to the evolution of carbonic acid.

The mustard poultice is a powerfully stimulating application, and in apoplectic cases, in certain stages of typhus fever, and generally where there is determination of blood to the head, it is sometimes applied to the calves of the legs and to the soles of the feet, with a view of causing a revulsion, or counteraction in a distant part ; but the practice is not worth much.



*Cataplasma Fermenti.*

R Farinæ libram,  
Cerevisiæ Fermenti octarium dimi-  
dium;

Misce, et calorem lenem adhibe,  
donec intumere cœperint.

*Yest Cataplasm.*

Take of Flour, a pound,  
Yest, half a pint;

Mix, and expose it to a gentle heat  
till it begins to rise.

*Cataplasma Sinapis.*

R Sinapis Semen,  
Lini usitatissimi Semen, singu-  
lorum contritorum libram dimi-  
diam,  
Aceti calidi quantum satis sit;

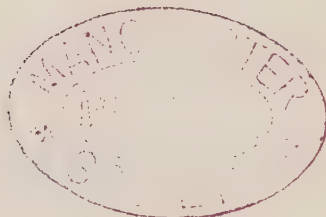
Misce, ut fiat Cataplasmatibus crassi-  
tudo.

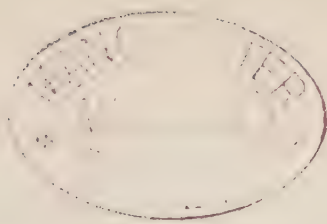
*Mustard Cataplasm.*

Take of Mustard Seed,  
Linseed, of each in powder  
half a pound,

Hot Vinegar, a sufficient quan-  
tity;

Mix, so as to form a Poultice.





## TABLE

SHOWING IN WHAT PROPORTION OPIUM AND CERTAIN PREPARATIONS OF ANTIMONY, ARSENIC, AND MERCURY, ARE CONTAINED IN SOME COMPOUND MEDICINES.

---

CONFECTIO OPII (*Confection of Opium*), in about thirty-six grains contains one grain of opium.

HYDRARGYRUM CUM CRETA (*Mercury with Chalk*), in about three grains contains one grain of mercury.

LINIMENTUM HYDRARGYRI (*Mercurial Liniment*), in about six drachms contains one drachm of mercury.

LIQUOR ARSENICALIS (*Arsenical Solution*), in two fluidrachms contains one grain of sublimed white arsenic.

LIQUOR HYDRARGYRI OXYMURIATIS (*Solution of Oxymuriate of Mercury*), in two fluidounces contains one grain of oxymuriate of mercury.

PILULÆ HYDRARGYRI (*Mercurial Pills*), in three grains contain one grain of mercury.

PILULÆ HYDRARGYRI SUBMURIATIS COMPOSITÆ (*Compound Pills of Submuriate of Mercury*), in about four grains contain one grain of submuriate of mercury.

PILULÆ SAPONIS CUM OPIO (*Soap Pills with Opium*), in five grains contain one grain of opium.

PULVIS CORNU USTI CUM OPIO (*Powder of calcined Hartshorn with Opium*), in ten grains contains one grain of opium.

PULVIS CRETÆ COMPOSITUS CUM OPIO (*Compound Powder of Chalk with Opium*), in two scruples contains one grain of opium.

PULVIS IPECACUANHÆ COMPOSITUS (*Compound Powder of Ipecacuanha*), in ten grains contains one grain of opium.

PULVIS KINO COMPOSITUS (*Compound Powder of Kino*), in one scruple contains one grain of opium.

VINUM ANTIMONII TARTARIZATI (*Wine of tartarized Antimony*), in four fluidrachms contains one grain of tartarized antimony.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI FORTIUS (*Stronger Mercurial Ointment*), in two drachms contains one drachm of mercury.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI MITIUS (*Milder Mercurial Ointment*), in six drachms contains one drachm of mercury.



# A TABLE

## OF

### PHARMACEUTICAL EQUIVALENTS.

|                                |   |                  |          |     |   |     |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------|----------|-----|---|-----|
| Acid, Acetic (dry) .....       | { | 4 Carbon.....    | (6×4)=   | 24  | } | 51  |
|                                |   | 3 Oxygen .....   | (8×3)=   | 24  |   |     |
|                                |   | 3 Hydrogen ..... | =        | 3   |   |     |
| —— (crystallised or glacial) { |   | 1 Dry Acid ..... | =        | 51  | } | 60  |
|                                |   | 1 Water .....    | =        | 9   |   |     |
| —— Arsenious (dry) .....       | { | 1 Arsenic .....  | =        | 38  | } | 50  |
|                                |   | 1½ Oxygen.....   | (8×1·5)= | 12  |   |     |
| —— Benzoic (dry) .....         | { | 15 Carbon .....  | (6×15)=  | 90  | } | 120 |
|                                |   | 3 Oxygen .....   | (8×3)=   | 24  |   |     |
|                                |   | 6 Hydrogen ..... | =        | 6   |   |     |
| —— Boracic (dry) .....         | { | 1 Boron .....    | =        | 20  | } | 68  |
|                                |   | 6 Oxygen .....   | (8×6)=   | 48  |   |     |
| —— (crystallised) .....        | { | 1 Dry Acid ..... | =        | 68  | } | 95  |
|                                |   | 3 Water.....     | (9×3)=   | 27  |   |     |
| —— Carbonic.....               | { | 1 Carbon .....   | =        | 6   | } | 22  |
|                                |   | 2 Oxygen .....   | (8×2)=   | 16  |   |     |
| —— Citric (dry) .....          | { | 4 Carbon .       | (6×4)=   | 24  | } | 58  |
|                                |   | 4 Oxygen .....   | (8×4)=   | 32  |   |     |
|                                |   | 2 Hydrogen ..... | =        | 2   |   |     |
| —— (crystallised) .....        | { | 1 Dry Acid ..... | =        | 58  | } | 76  |
|                                |   | 2 Water .....    | (9×2)=   | 18  |   |     |
| —— Hydriodic .....             | { | 1 Iodine .....   | =        | 125 | } | 126 |
|                                |   | 1 Hydrogen ..... | =        | 1   |   |     |
| —— Hydrocyanic .....           | { | 1 Cyanogen.....  | =        | 26  | } | 27  |
|                                |   | 1 Hydrogen ..... | =        | 1   |   |     |
| —— Muriatic (dry) .....        | { | 1 Chlorine ..... | =        | 36  | } | 37  |
|                                |   | 1 Hydrogen ..... | =        | 1   |   |     |
| —— Nitric (dry) .....          | { | 1 Nitrogen ..... | =        | 14  | } | 54  |
|                                |   | 5 Oxygen .....   | (8×5)=   | 40  |   |     |
| —— (liquid, sp. gr. 1·5) ..    | { | 1 Dry Acid ..... | =        | 54  | } | 72  |
|                                |   | 2 Water .....    | (9×2)=   | 18  |   |     |
| —— Oxalic (dry) .....          | { | 2 Carbon.....    | (6×2)=   | 12  | } | 36  |
|                                |   | 3 Oxygen .....   | (8×3)=   | 24  |   |     |

|   |   |                            |                    |     |     |
|---|---|----------------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|
| Acid, Oxalic (crystallised) .....             | { | 1 Dry Acid .....           | =                  | 36  | 63  |
|   |   | 3 Water .....              | $(9 \times 3) =$   | 27  |     |
| — Phosphoric (dry) .....                      | { | 1 Phosphorus .....         | =                  | 16  | 36  |
|   |   | 2½ Oxygen .....            | $(8 \times 2.5) =$ | 20  |     |
| — Succinic (dry, or anhydrous crystals) ..... | { | 4 Carbon .....             | $(6 \times 4) =$   | 24  | 50  |
|   |   | 3 Oxygen .....             | $(8 \times 3) =$   | 24  |     |
|   |   | 2 Hydrogen .....           | =                  | 2   |     |
| — Sulphuric (dry) .....                       | { | 1 Sulphur .....            | =                  | 16  | 40  |
|   |   | 3 Oxygen .....             | $(8 \times 3) =$   | 24  |     |
| — liquid, sp. gr. 1.48. .....                 | { | 1 Dry Acid .....           | =                  | 40  | 49  |
|   |   | 1 Water .....              | =                  | 9   |     |
| — Tartaric (dry) .....                        | { | 4 Carbon .....             | $(6 \times 4) =$   | 24  | 66  |
|   |   | 5 Oxygen .....             | $(8 \times 5) =$   | 40  |     |
|   |   | 2 Hydrogen .....           | =                  | 2   |     |
| — (crystallised) .....                        | { | 1 Dry Acid .....           | =                  | 66  | 75  |
|   |   | 1 Water .....              | =                  | 9   |     |
| Alum (dry) .....                              | { | 3 Sulphate of Alumina...   | $(58 \times 3) =$  | 174 | 262 |
|   |   | 1 Sulphate of Potassa..... | =                  | 88  |     |
| — (crystallised) .....                        | { | 1 Dry Alum .....           | =                  | 262 | 487 |
|   |   | 25 Water .....             | $(9 \times 25) =$  | 225 |     |
| Alumina .....                                 | { | 1 Aluminum.....            | =                  | 10  | 18  |
|   |   | 1 Oxygen .....             | =                  | 8   |     |
| — Sulphate (dry) .....                        | { | 1 Alumina .....            | =                  | 18  | 58  |
|   |   | 1 Sulphuric Acid .....     | =                  | 40  |     |
| Ammonia .....                                 | { | 1 Nitrogen .....           | =                  | 14  | 17  |
|   |   | 3 Hydrogen .....           | =                  | 3   |     |
| — Acetate (dry) .....                         | { | 1 Ammonia .....            | =                  | 17  | 68  |
|   |   | 1 Acetic Acid.....         | =                  | 51  |     |
| — Hydrated Bicarbonate ..                     | { | 1 Ammonia.....             | =                  | 17  | 79  |
|   |   | 2 Carbonic Acid .....      | $(22 \times 2) =$  | 44  |     |
|   |   | 2 Water.....               | $(9 \times 2) =$   | 18  |     |
| — Carbonate .....                             | { | 1 Ammonia .....            | =                  | 17  | 39  |
|   |   | 1 Carbonic Acid .....      | =                  | 22  |     |
| — Hydrated Sesquicarbonate                    | { | 2 Ammonia.....             | $(17 \times 2) =$  | 34  | 118 |
|   |   | 3 Carbonic Acid.....       | $(22 \times 3) =$  | 66  |     |
|   |   | 2 Water .....              | $(9 \times 2) =$   | 18  |     |
| — Citrate (dry) .....                         | { | 1 Ammonia .....            | =                  | 17  | 75  |
|   |   | 1 Citric Acid .....        | =                  | 58  |     |
| — Muriate .....                               | { | 1 Ammonia .....            | =                  | 17  | 54  |
|   |   | 1 Muriatic Acid .....      | =                  | 37  |     |
| — Sulphate (crystallised) ..                  | { | 1 Ammonia .....            | =                  | 17  | 66  |
|   |   | 1 Sulphuric Acid.....      | =                  | 40  |     |
|   |   | 1 Water .....              | =                  | 9   |     |
| Antimony .....                                |   |                            |                    |     | 65  |
| — Chloride .....                              | { | 1 Antimony .....           | =                  | 65  | 119 |
|   |   | 1½ Chlorine.....           | =                  | 54  |     |
| — Protoxide .....                             | { | 1 Antimony .....           | =                  | 65  | 77  |
|   |   | 1½ Oxygen .....            | =                  | 12  |     |
| — Deutoxide or antimonious acid .....         | { | 1 Antimony .....           | =                  | 65  | 81  |
|   |   | 2 Oxygen.....              | $(8 \times 2) =$   | 16  |     |



|  |   |     |
|--|---|-----|
| Antimony, Peroxide or Antimonie Acid.....                  | { 1 Antimony.....= 65 } 85                  |     |
|  | { 2½ Oxygen .....(8×2·5)= 20 }              |     |
| ——— Sulphuret .....  | { 1 Antimony .....= 65 } 89                 |     |
|  | { 1½ Sulphur .....(16×1·5)= 24 }            |     |
| ——— Potassa Tartrate (crys-<br>tals of Emetic Tartar)..... | { 2 Protoxide of Antimony (77×2)= 154 } 352 |     |
|  | { 1 Bitartrate of Potassa.....= 180 }       |     |
|  | { 2 Water.....(9×2)= 18 }                   |     |
| Arsenic .....  |   | 38  |
| ——— Oxide (Arsenious Acid)...                              | { 1 Arsenic.....= 38 } 50                   |     |
|  | { 1½ Oxygen .....= 12 }                     |     |
| ——— Acid .....   | { 1 Arsenic .....= 38 } 58                  |     |
|  | { 2½ Oxygen.....(8×2·5)= 20 }               |     |
| Bismuth .....  |   | 72  |
| ——— Oxide .....  | { 1 Bismuth.....= 71 } 80                   |     |
|  | { 1 Oxygen .....= 8 }                       |     |
| ——— Subnitrate .....                                       | { 4 Oxide of Bismuth .....(80×4)= 320 } 392 |     |
|  | { 1 Nitric Acid .....= 54 }                 |     |
|  | { 2 Water .....(9×2)= 18 }                  |     |
| Boron.....   |   | 20  |
| Calcium .....  |   | 20  |
| ——— Chloride .....   | { 1 Calcium .....= 20 } 56                  |     |
|  | { 1 Chlorine.....= 36 }                     |     |
| ——— Oxide (see <i>Lime</i> ) .....                         | { 1 Calcium .....= 20 } 28                  |     |
|  | { 1 Oxygen .....= 8 }                       |     |
| Carbon.....  |   | 6   |
| Carburet of Nitrogen (Cyanogen) .{                         | 2 Carbon .....(6×2)= 12 } 26                |     |
|  | 1 Nitrogen .....= 14 }                      |     |
| Chlorine.....  |   | 36  |
| Cinchonia .....  |   | 315 |
| Copper.....  |   | 64  |
| ——— Subperacetate (dry) .....                              | { 1 Peroxide of Copper.....= 80 } 131       |     |
|  | { 1 Acetic Acid.....= 51 }                  |     |
| ——— (crystallised<br>common verdigris) .....               | { 1 Subperacetate.....= 131 } 185           |     |
|  | { 6 Water .....(9×6)= 54 }                  |     |
| ——— Peracetate (dry).....                                  | { 1 Peroxide of Copper.....= 80 } 182       |     |
|  | { 2 Acetic Acid .....(51×2)= 102 }          |     |
| ——— (crystallised or<br>distilled verdigris) .....         | { 1 Peracetate .....= 182 } 209             |     |
|  | { 3 Water .....(9×3)= 27 }                  |     |
| ——— Peroxide .....   | { 1 Copper.....= 64 } 80                    |     |
|  | { 2 Oxygen.....(8×2)= 16 }                  |     |
| ——— Persulphate (dry) .....                                | { 1 Peroxide of Copper.....= 80 } 160       |     |
|  | { 2 Sulphuric Acid .....(40×2)= 80 }        |     |
| ——— (crystallised) .{                                      | 1 Persulphate of Copper .....= 160 } 250    |     |
|  | 10 Water.....(9×10)= 90 }                   |     |
| Hydrogen .....   |   | 1   |
| Iodine .....   |   | 125 |
| Iron .....   |   | 28  |
| ——— Protoxide.....   | { 1 Iron .....= 28 } 36                     |     |
|  | { 1 Oxygen .....= 8 }                       |     |
| ——— Peroxide .....   | { 1 Iron .....= 28 } 40                     |     |
|  | { 1½ Oxygen .....= 12 }                     |     |

|  |   |                                      |       |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Iron, Perchloride .....                      | { | 1 Iron.....= 28                      | } 82  |
|  |   | $1\frac{1}{2}$ Chlorine.....= 54     |       |
| — Sulphate (dry) .....                       | { | 1 Protoxide of Iron.....= 36         | } 76  |
|  |   | 1 Sulphuric Acid.....= 40            |       |
| — (crystallised) .....                       | { | 1 Dry Sulphate .....=76              | } 139 |
|  |   | 7 Water .....(9×7)=63                |       |
| Lead .....                                   |   |                                      | 104   |
| — Acetate (dry) .....                        | { | 1 Protoxide of Lead.....= 112        | } 163 |
|  |   | 1 Acetic Acid .....= 51              |       |
| — (crystallised).....                        | { | 1 Dry Acetate.....= 163              | } 190 |
|  |   | 3 Water .....(9×3)= 27               |       |
| — Subacetate.....                            | { | 2 Protoxide of Lead.....(112×2)= 224 | } 275 |
|  |   | 1 Acetic Acid.....= 51               |       |
| — Protoxide.....                             | { | 1 Lead .....= 104                    | } 112 |
|  |   | 1 Oxygen.....= 8                     |       |
| — Carbonate .....                            | { | 1 Protoxide of Lead.....= 112        | } 134 |
|  |   | 1 Carbonic Acid.....= 22             |       |
| Lime .....                                   | { | 1 Calcium.....= 20                   | } 28  |
|  |   | 1 Oxygen.....= 8                     |       |
| — Carbonate .....                            | { | 1 Lime.....= 28                      | } 50  |
|  |   | 1 Carbonic Acid .....= 22            |       |
| — Hydrate (slaked lime) .....                | { | 1 Lime.....= 28                      | } 37  |
|  |   | 1 Water.....= 9                      |       |
| — Phosphate .....                            | { | 1 Lime .....= 28                     | } 64  |
|  |   | 1 Phosphoric Acid.....= 36           |       |
| — Sulphate (dry).....                        | { | 1 Lime .....= 28                     | } 68  |
|  |   | 1 Sulphuric Acid .....= 40           |       |
| — Tartrate (dry) .....                       | { | 1 Lime .....= 28                     | } 94  |
|  |   | 1 Tartaric Acid .....= 66            |       |
| Magnesia.....                                | { | 1 Magnesium .....= 12                | } 20  |
|  |   | 1 Oxygen .....= 8                    |       |
| — Carbonate (dry).....                       | { | 1 Magnesia .....= 20                 | } 44  |
|  |   | 1 Carbonic Acid.....= 22             |       |
| — Sulphate (dry) .....                       | { | 1 Magnesia .....= 20                 | } 60  |
|  |   | 1 Sulphuric Acid .....= 40           |       |
| — (crystallised) ..                          | { | 1 Dry Sulphate .....= 60             | } 123 |
|  |   | 7 Water.....(9×7)= 63                |       |
| Mercury .....                                |   |                                      | 200   |
| — Protoxide .....                            | { | 1 Mercury .....= 200                 | } 208 |
|  |   | 1 Oxygen .....= 8                    |       |
| — Peroxide .....                             | { | 1 Mercury.....= 200                  | } 216 |
|  |   | 2 Oxygen.....(8×2)= 16               |       |
| — Protochloride (Calomel).....               | { | 1 Mercury .....= 200                 | } 236 |
|  |   | 1 Chlorine .....= 36                 |       |
| — Perchloride (Corrosive)<br>Sublimate ..... | { | 1 Mercury.....= 200                  | } 272 |
|  |   | 2 Chlorine.....(36×2)= 72            |       |
| — Protosulphate (dry) .....                  | { | 1 Protoxide of Mercury .....= 208    | } 248 |
|  |   | 1 Sulphuric Acid .....= 40           |       |
| — Persulphate (dry) .....                    | { | 1 Peroxide of Mercury.....= 216      | } 296 |
|  |   | 2 Sulphuric Acid.....(40×2)= 80      |       |



|                               |   |                              |                |   |     |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------|---|-----|
| Mercury, Protosulphuret ..... | { | 1 Mercury .....              | = 200          | { | 216 |
|                               |   | 1 Sulphur .....              | = 16           |   |     |
| ———— Bisulphuret .....        | { | 1 Mercury .....              | = 200          | { | 232 |
|                               |   | 2 Sulphur .....              | (16 × 2) = 32  |   |     |
| ———— Bicyanuret .....         | { | 1 Mercury .....              | = 200          | { | 252 |
|                               |   | 2 Cyanogen .....             | (26 × 2) = 52  |   |     |
| ———— Protonitrate (dry) ..... | { | 1 Protoxide of Mercury ..... | = 208          | { | 262 |
|                               |   | 1 Nitric Acid .....          | = 54           |   |     |
| ———— Pernitrate .....         | { | 1 Peroxide of Mercury .....  | = 216          | { | 324 |
|                               |   | 2 Nitric Acid .....          | (54 × 2) = 108 |   |     |
| Morphia .....                 |   |                              |                |   | 290 |
| Nitrogen .....                |   |                              |                |   | 14  |
| Oxygen .....                  |   |                              |                |   | 8   |
| Phosphorus .....              |   |                              |                |   | 16  |
| Potassa (dry) .....           | { | 1 Potassium .....            | = 40           | { | 48  |
|                               |   | 1 Oxygen .....               | = 8            |   |     |
| ———— (hydrate) .....          | { | 1 Dry Potassa .....          | = 48           | { | 57  |
|                               |   | 1 Water .....                | = 9            |   |     |
| ———— Acetate (dry) .....      | { | 1 Potassa .....              | = 48           | { | 99  |
|                               |   | 1 Acetic Acid .....          | = 51           |   |     |
| ———— Arseniate (dry) .....    | { | 1 Potassa .....              | = 48           | { | 106 |
|                               |   | 1 Arsenic Acid .....         | = 58           |   |     |
| ———— Arsenite (dry) .....     | { | 1 Potassa .....              | = 48           | { | 98  |
|                               |   | 1 Arsenious Acid .....       | = 50           |   |     |
| ———— Bicarbonate (dry) .....  | { | 1 Potassa .....              | = 48           | { | 92  |
|                               |   | 2 Carbonic Acid .....        | (22 × 2) = 44  |   |     |
| ———— crystallised* .....      | { | 1 Dry Bicarbonate .....      | = 92           | { | 101 |
|                               |   | 1 Water .....                | = 9            |   |     |
| ———— Bisulphate (dry) .....   | { | 1 Potassa .....              | = 48           | { | 128 |
|                               |   | 2 Sulphuric Acid .....       | (40 × 2) = 80  |   |     |
| ———— (crystallised) .....     | { | 1 Dry Bisulphate .....       | = 128          | { | 137 |
|                               |   | 1 Water .....                | = 9            |   |     |
| ———— Bitartrate (dry) .....   | { | 1 Potassa .....              | = 48           | { | 180 |
|                               |   | 2 Tartaric Acid .....        | (66 × 2) = 132 |   |     |
| ———— (crystallised) .....     | { | 1 Dry Bitartrate .....       | = 180          | { | 189 |
|                               |   | 1 Water .....                | = 9            |   |     |
| ———— Carbonate (dry) † .....  | { | 1 Potassa .....              | = 48           | { | 70  |
|                               |   | 1 Carbonic Acid .....        | = 22           |   |     |
| ———— Citrate (dry) .....      | { | 1 Potassa .....              | = 48           | { | 106 |
|                               |   | 1 Citric Acid .....          | = 58           |   |     |
| ———— Nitrate .....            | { | 1 Potassa .....              | = 48           | { | 102 |
|                               |   | 1 Nitric Acid .....          | = 54           |   |     |
| ———— Sulphate .....           | { | 1 Potassa .....              | = 48           | { | 88  |
|                               |   | 1 Sulphuric Acid .....       | = 40           |   |     |
| Potassa, Tartrate (dry) ..... | { | 1 Potassa .....              | = 48           | { | 114 |
|                               |   | 1 Tartaric Acid .....        | = 66           |   |     |
| Potassium .....               |   |                              |                |   | 40  |

\* Potassæ Carbonas of the Pharmacopœia.

† Potassæ Subcarbonas of the Pharmacopœia.

|                                 |   |                                |                |       |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Potassium, Chloridé .....       | { | 1 Potassium .....              | = 40           | } 76  |
|                                 |   | 1 Chlorine .....               | = 36           |       |
| —— Sulphuret .....              | { | 1 Potassium .....              | = 40           | } 56  |
|                                 |   | 1 Sulphur .....                | = 16           |       |
| —— Bisulphuret .....            | { | 1 Potassium .....              | = 40           | } 72  |
|                                 |   | 2 Sulphur .....                | (16 × 2) = 32  |       |
| Quinia .....                    |   |                                |                | 360   |
| —— sulphate .....               | { | 1 Quinia .....                 | = 360          | } 400 |
|                                 |   | 1 Sulphuric Acid .....         | = 40           |       |
| —— (recent crystals) ..         | { | 1 Dry Sulphate of Quinia ..... | = 400          | } 472 |
|                                 |   | 8 Water .....                  | (9 × 8) = 72   |       |
| —— (effloresced) .....          | { | 1 Dry Sulphate .....           | = 400          | } 418 |
|                                 |   | 2 Water .....                  | (9 × 2) = 18   |       |
| Silver .....                    |   |                                |                | 110   |
| —— Oxide .....                  | { | 1 Silver .....                 | = 110          | } 118 |
|                                 |   | 1 Oxygen .....                 | = 8            |       |
| —— Chloride .....               | { | 1 Silver .....                 | = 110          | } 146 |
|                                 |   | 1 Chlorine .....               | = 36           |       |
| —— Nitrate .....                | { | 1 Oxide of Silver .....        | = 118          | } 172 |
|                                 |   | 1 Nitric Acid .....            | = 54           |       |
| Soda (dry) .....                | { | 1 Sodium .....                 | = 24           | } 32  |
|                                 |   | 1 Oxygen .....                 | = 8            |       |
| —— Hydrated .....               | { | 1 Dry Soda .....               | = 32           | } 41  |
|                                 |   | 1 Water .....                  | = 9            |       |
| —— Acetate (dry) .....          | { | 1 Soda .....                   | = 32           | } 83  |
|                                 |   | 1 Acetic Acid .....            | = 51           |       |
| —— (crystallised) .....         | { | 1 Dry Acetate .....            | = 83           | } 137 |
|                                 |   | 6 Water .....                  | (9 × 6) = 54   |       |
| —— Carbonate (dry) .....        | { | 1 Soda .....                   | = 32           | } 54  |
|                                 |   | 1 Carbonic Acid .....          | = 22           |       |
| —— (crystallised)* ..           | { | 1 Dry Carbonate .....          | = 54           | } 144 |
|                                 |   | 10 Water .....                 | (9 × 10) = 90  |       |
| —— Citrate (dry) .....          | { | 1 Soda .....                   | = 32           | } 90  |
|                                 |   | 1 Citric Acid .....            | = 58           |       |
| —— Sulphate (dry) .....         | { | 1 Soda .....                   | = 32           | } 72  |
|                                 |   | 1 Sulphuric Acid .....         | = 40           |       |
| —— (crystallised) .....         | { | 1 Dry Sulphate .....           | = 72           | } 162 |
|                                 |   | 10 Water .....                 | (9 × 10) = 90  |       |
| —— Tartrate (dry) .....         | { | 1 Soda .....                   | = 32           | } 98  |
|                                 |   | 1 Tartaric Acid .....          | = 66           |       |
| —— Potassatartrate .....        | { | 1 Soda .....                   | = 32           | } 212 |
|                                 |   | 1 Potassa .....                | = 48           |       |
|                                 |   | 2 Tartaric Acid .....          | (66 × 2) = 132 |       |
| —— Hydrated Sesquicarbonate† .. | { | 2 Soda .....                   | (32 × 2) = 64  | } 166 |
|                                 |   | 3 Carbonic Acid .....          | (22 × 3) = 66  |       |
|                                 |   | 4 Water .....                  | (9 × 4) = 36   |       |
| —— Bicarbonate .....            | { | 1 Soda .....                   | = 32           | } 76  |
|                                 |   | 2 Carbonic Acid .....          | (22 × 2) = 44  |       |

\* Sodæ Subcarbonas of the Pharmacopœia.

† Sodæ Carbonas of the Pharmacopœia.



|                               |   |                        |    |   |     |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------|----|---|-----|
| Sodium .....                  |   |                        |    |   | 24  |
| —— Chloride (common salt) ... | { | 1 Sodium.....=         | 24 | } | 60  |
|                               |   | 1 Chlorine.....=       | 36 |   |     |
| —— Oxide (Soda) .....         | { | 1 Sodium.....=         | 24 | } | 32  |
|                               |   | 1 Oxygen.....=         | 8  |   |     |
| Strychnia .....               |   |                        |    |   | 241 |
| Sulphur .....                 |   |                        |    |   | 16  |
| Sulphuretted Hydrogen.....    | { | 1 Sulphur.....=        | 16 | } | 17  |
|                               |   | 1 Hydrogen.....=       | 1  |   |     |
| Tin.....                      |   |                        |    |   | 58  |
| Water. ....                   | { | 1 Oxygen.....=         | 8  | } | 9   |
|                               |   | 1 Hydrogen.....=       | 1  |   |     |
| Zinc.....                     |   |                        |    |   | 32  |
| —— Oxide.....                 | { | 1 Zinc.....=           | 32 | } | 40  |
|                               |   | 1 Oxygen.....=         | 8  |   |     |
| —— Carbonate .....            | { | 1 Oxide of Zinc.....=  | 40 | } | 62  |
|                               |   | 1 Carbonic Acid.....=  | 22 |   |     |
| —— Sulphate (dry) .....       | { | 1 Oxide of Zinc.....=  | 40 | } | 80  |
|                               |   | 1 Sulphuric Acid.....= | 40 |   |     |
| ———— (crystallised),.....     | { | 1 Dry Sulphate.....=   | 80 | } | 134 |
|                               |   | 6 Water.....(9×6)=     | 54 |   |     |

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